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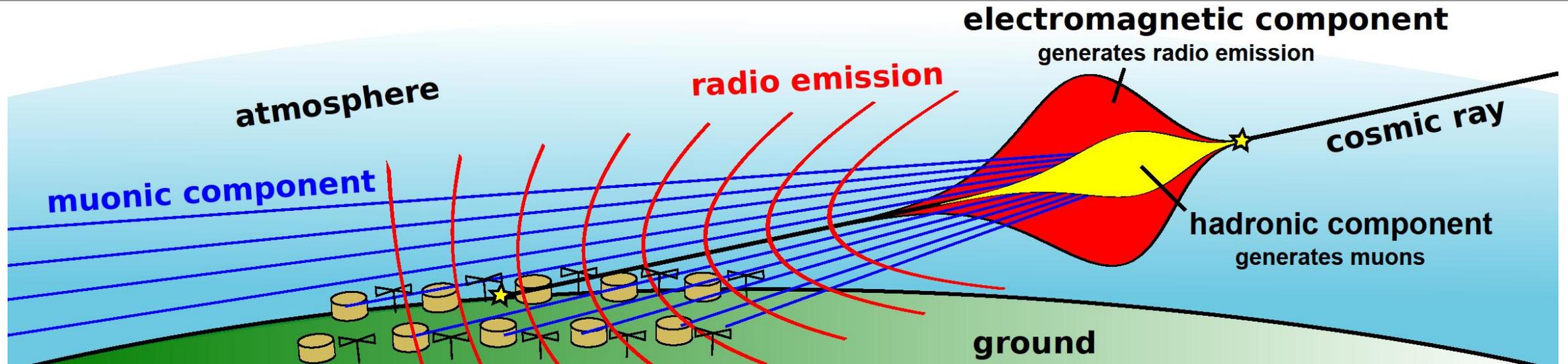
Contribution  
**D21.00002**

# Ultra-high-energy Cosmic Rays: Recent Results and Future Plans

**Frank G. Schroeder**

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U.S. National Science Foundation-EPSCoR  
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and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Institute for Nuclear Physics, Karlsruhe, Germany

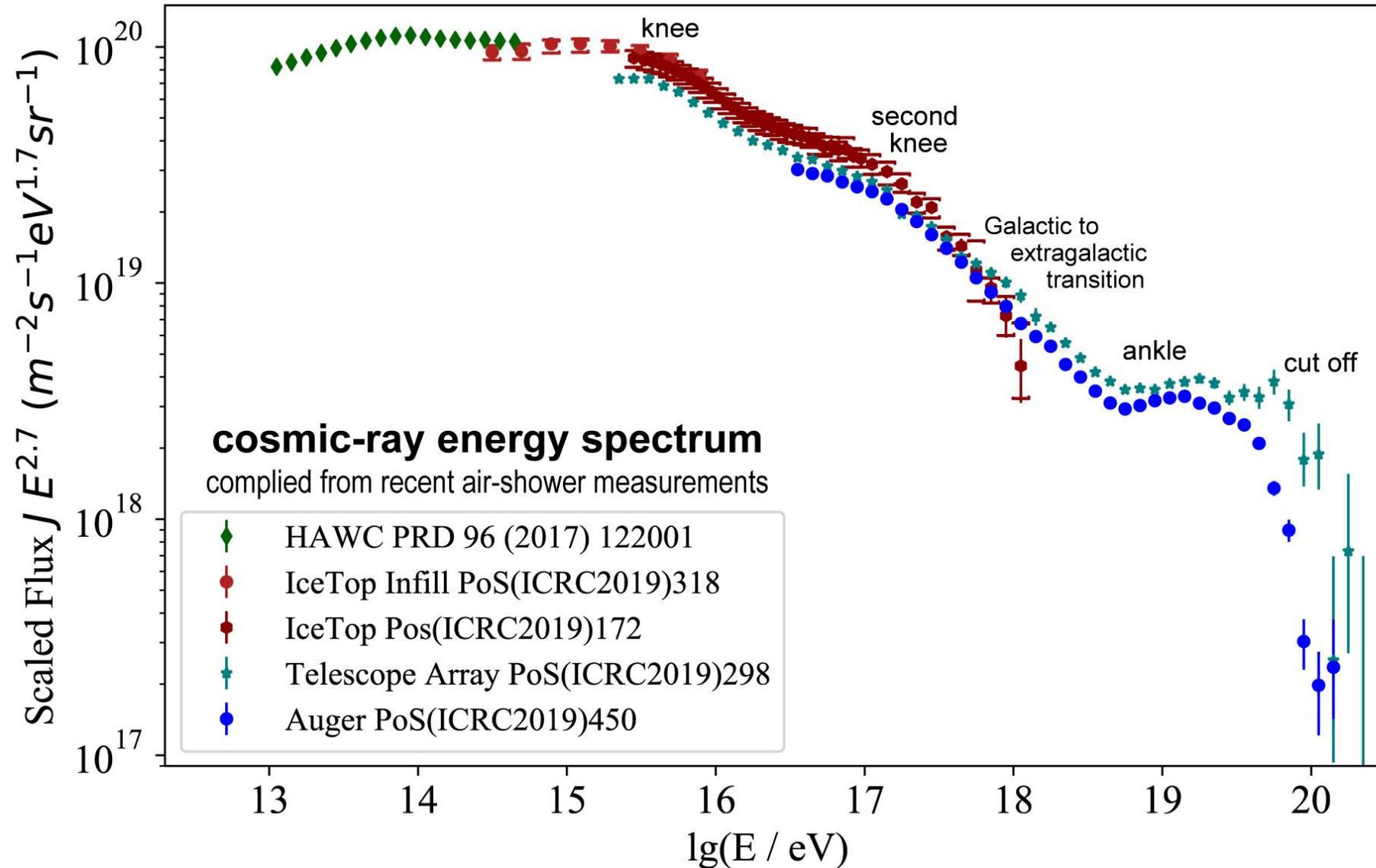


# Content

- Recent results in ultra-high-energy Cosmic Rays
  - Multimessenger picture
  - Cosmic-Ray Energy Spectrum and Mass Composition
  - Anisotropy
  - Testing Hadronic Interaction Models
- Ongoing upgrades and future *ground-based* experiments
  - Radio technique for air showers
  - AugerPrime – the Upgrade of the Pierre Auger Observatory
  - Telescope Array TA x 4 and low-energy extensions
  - GRAND
  - IceCube-Gen2 and its Surface Array

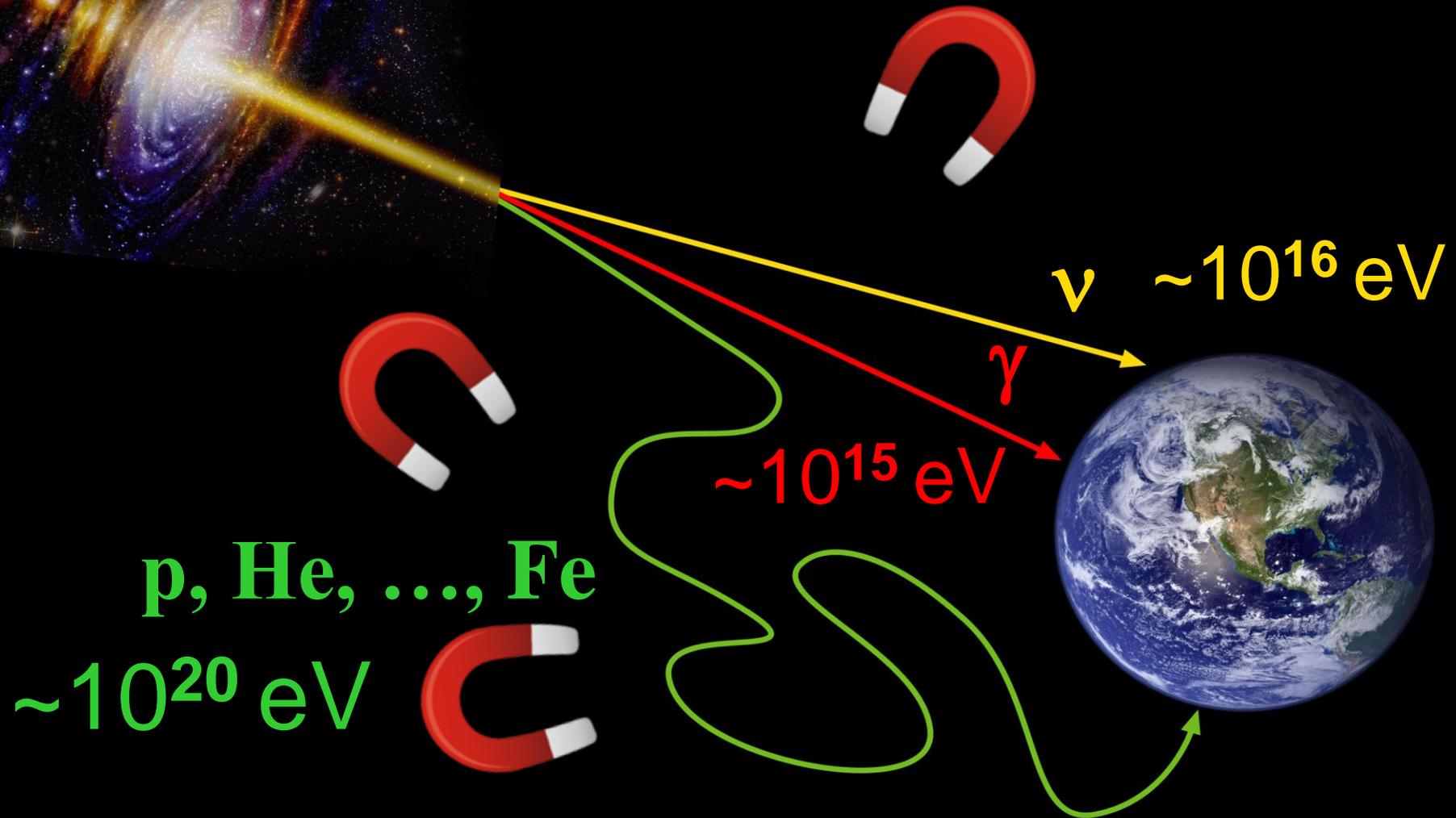
Remark: this talk will focus on ground-based cosmic-ray detectors because dedicated talks follow on balloon-borne and space missions.

# All-particle Energy Spectrum by Air-Shower Arrays

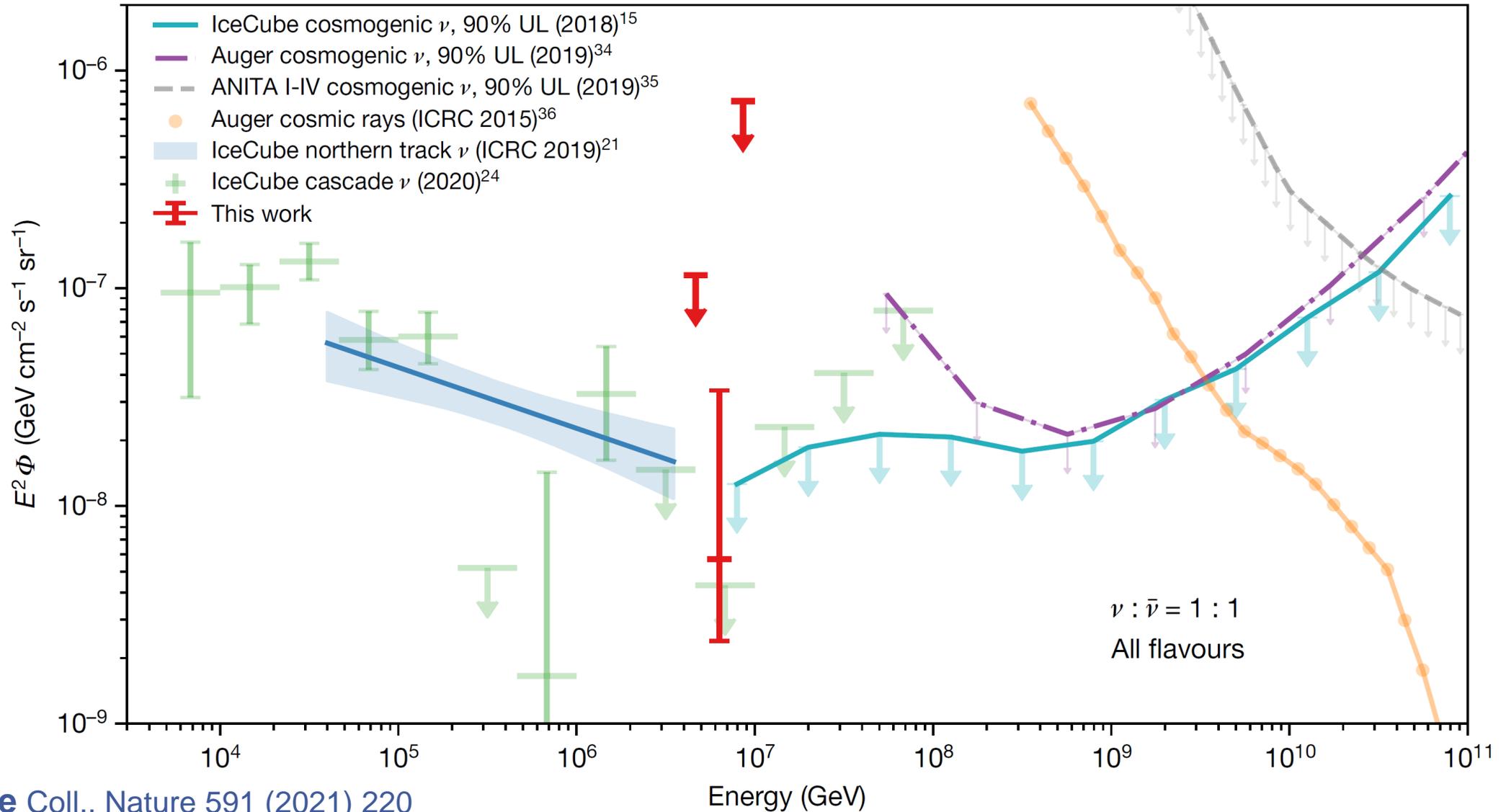


# Multimessenger Astroparticle Physics

highest detected particle energies

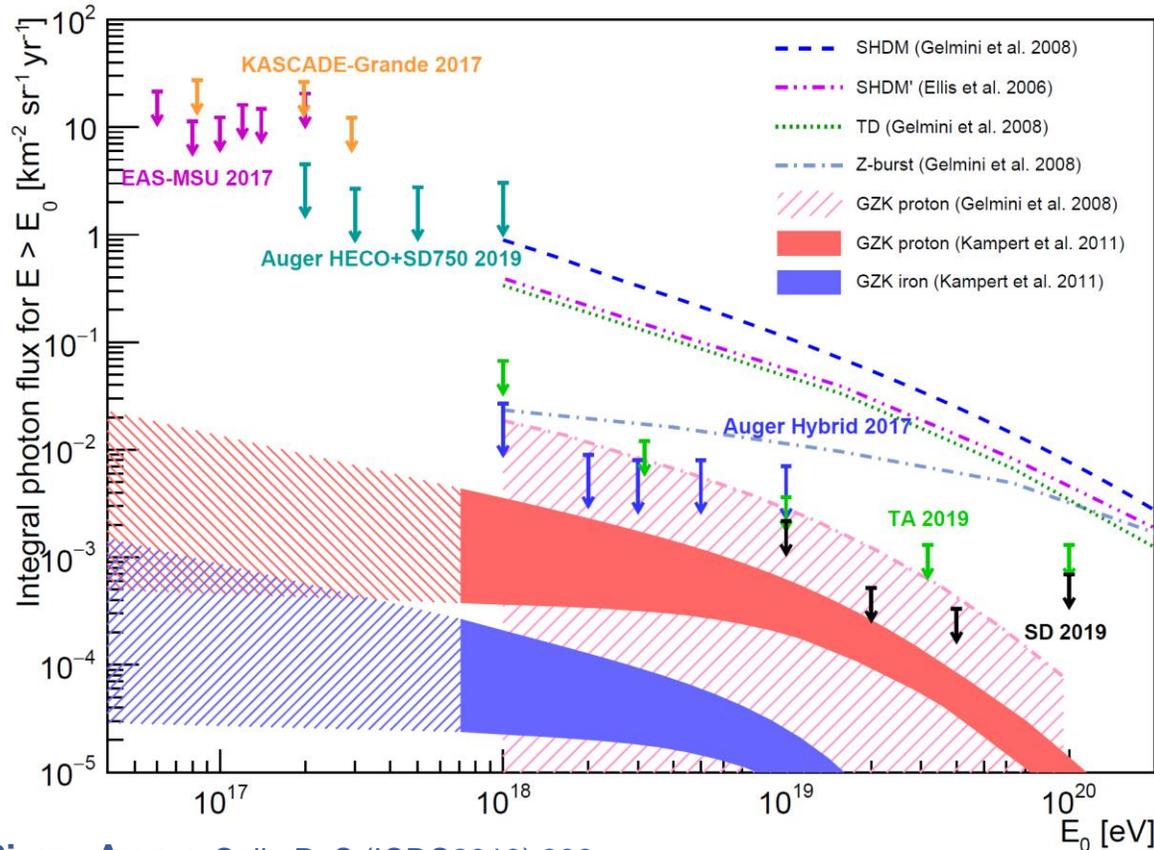


# Almost 10 PeV neutrino (at Glashow resonance of 6.3 PeV)

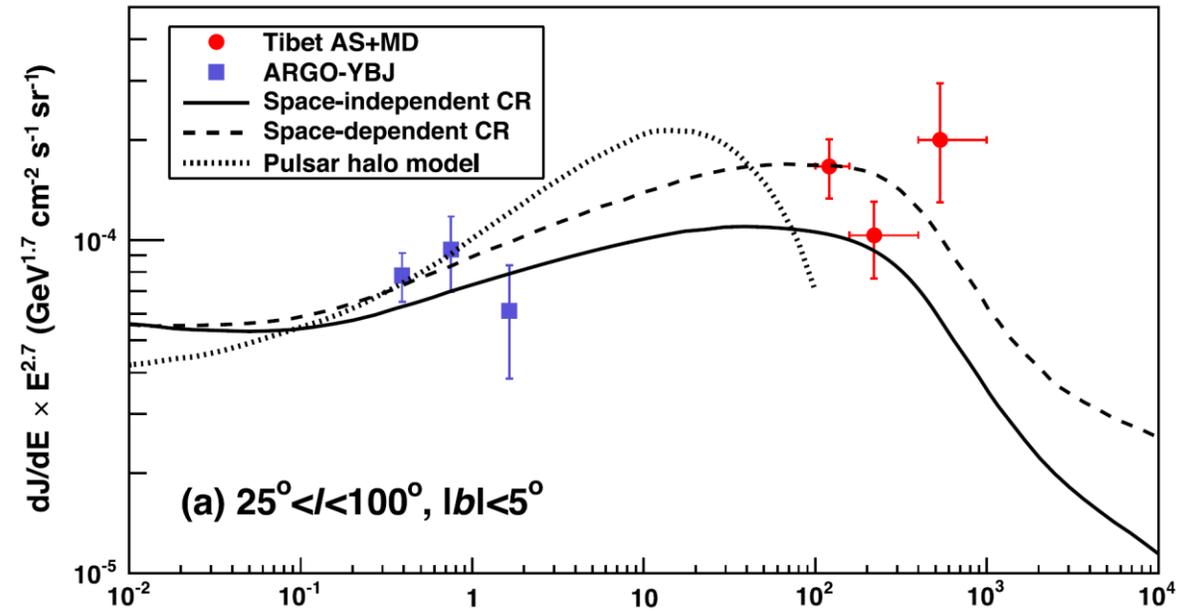


# Almost PeV gamma rays

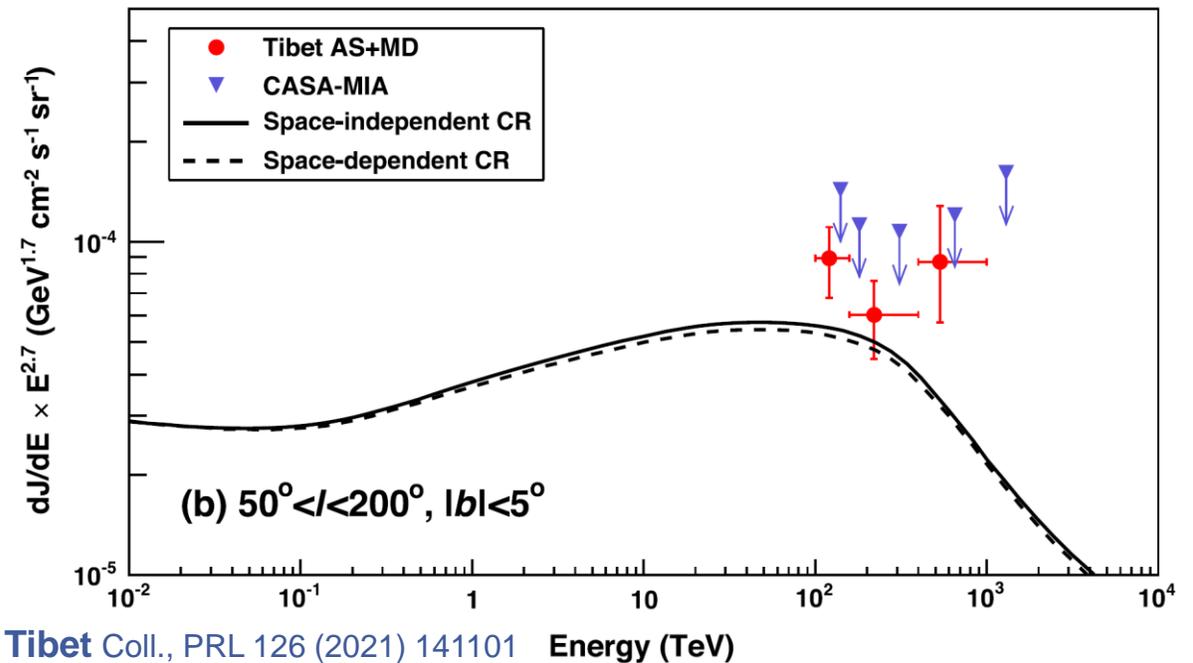
- Diffuse ~ PeV photons measured by Tibet AS gamma experiment
- Only limits at higher energies



Pierre Auger Coll., PoS (ICRC2019) 398



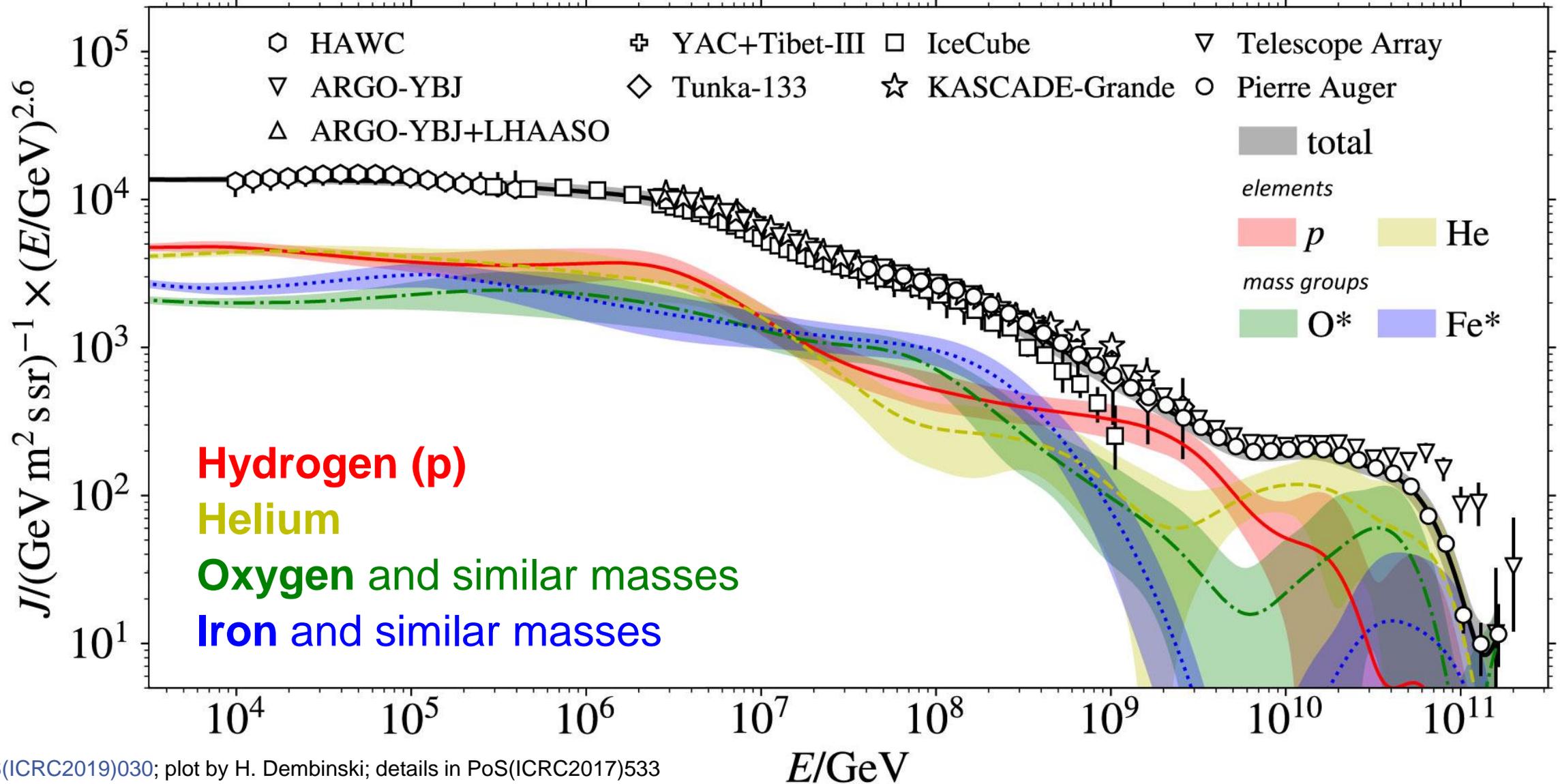
(a)  $25^\circ < l < 100^\circ, |b| < 5^\circ$



(b)  $50^\circ < l < 200^\circ, |b| < 5^\circ$

Tibet Coll., PRL 126 (2021) 141101 Energy (TeV)

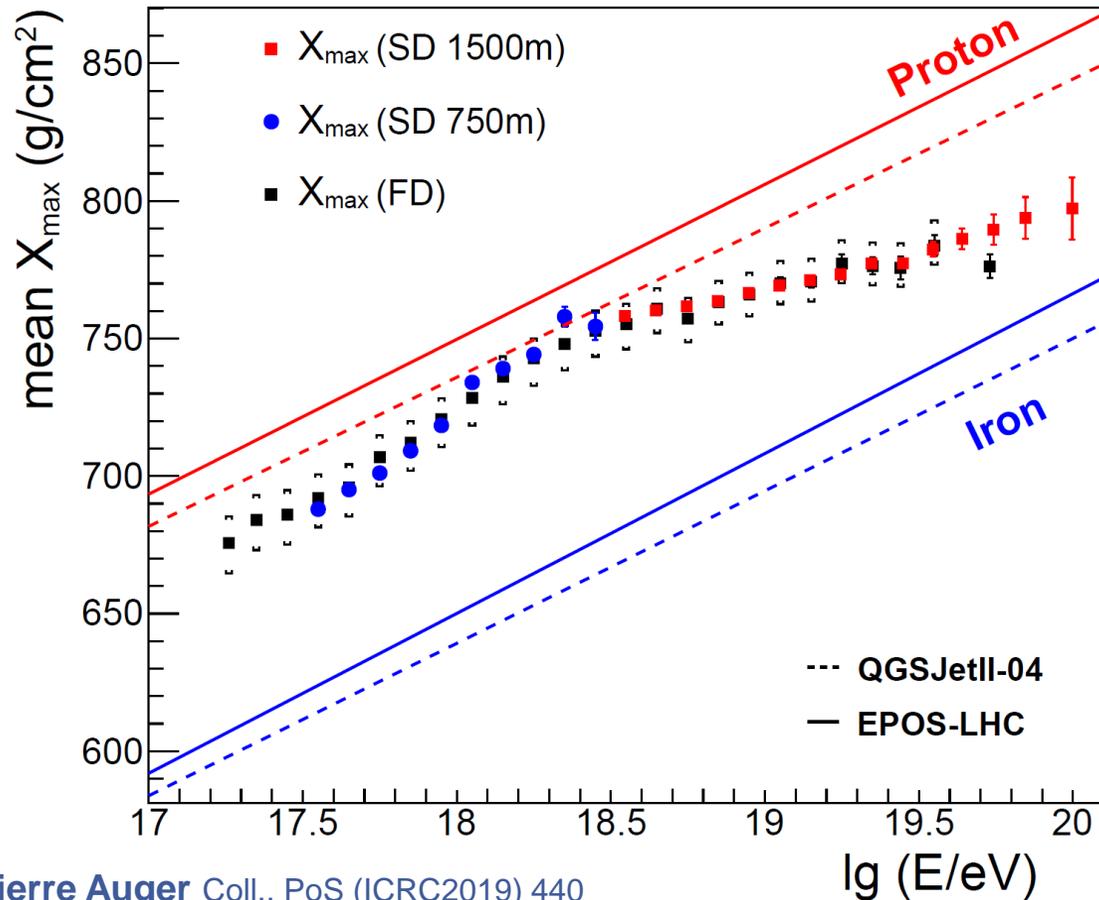
# Cosmic-Ray Energy Spectrum and Mass Composition



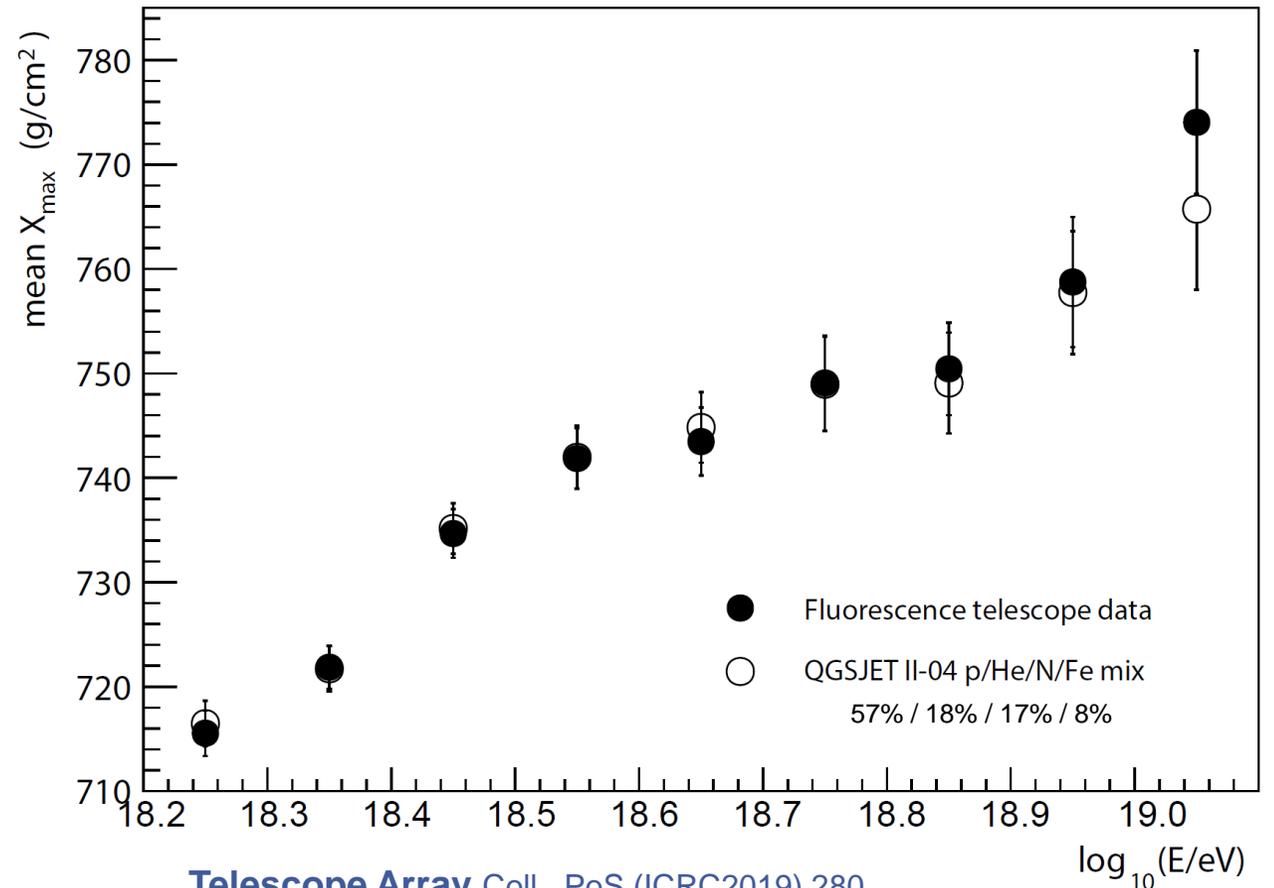
PoS(ICRC2019)030; plot by H. Dembinski; details in PoS(ICRC2017)533

# Depth of Shower Maximum, $X_{\max}$

- Dominantly light composition (p + He) around ankle, trend towards heavier composition
- Auger and Telescope Array consistent within uncertainties (TA also consistent with constant composition)



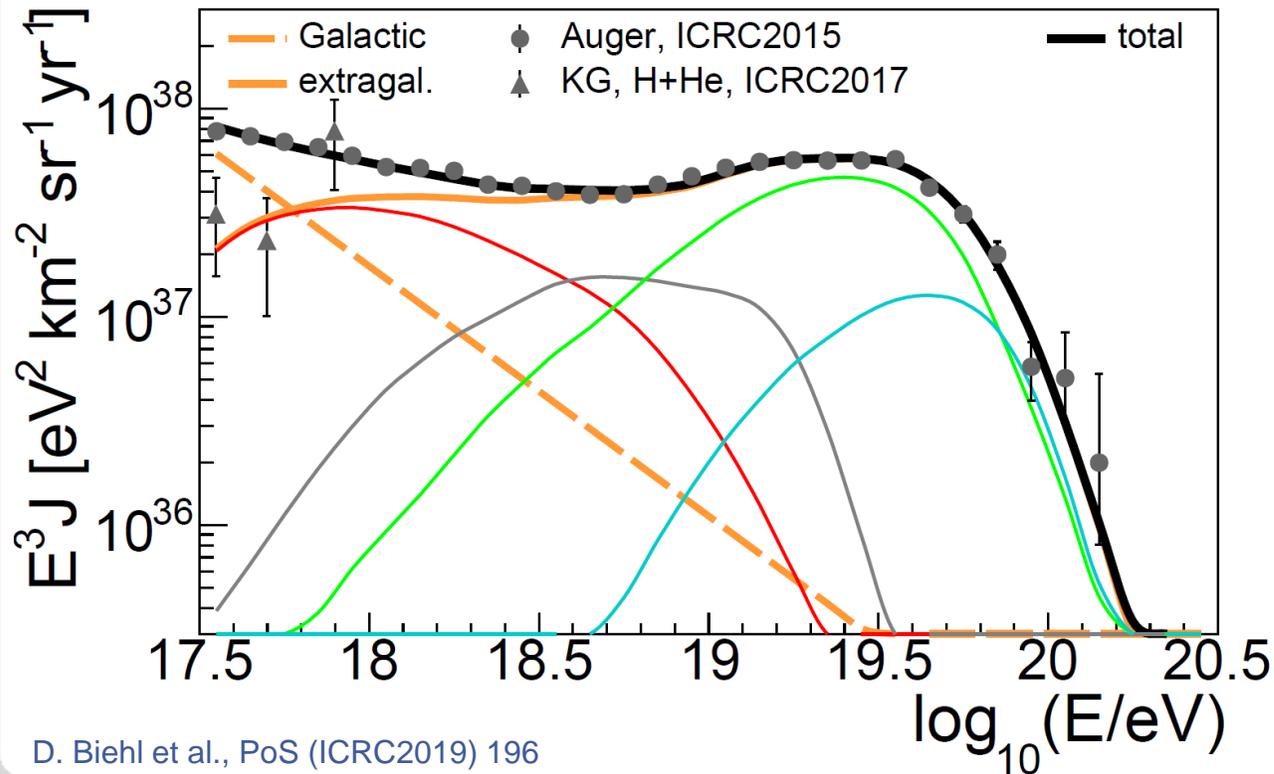
Pierre Auger Coll., PoS (ICRC2019) 440



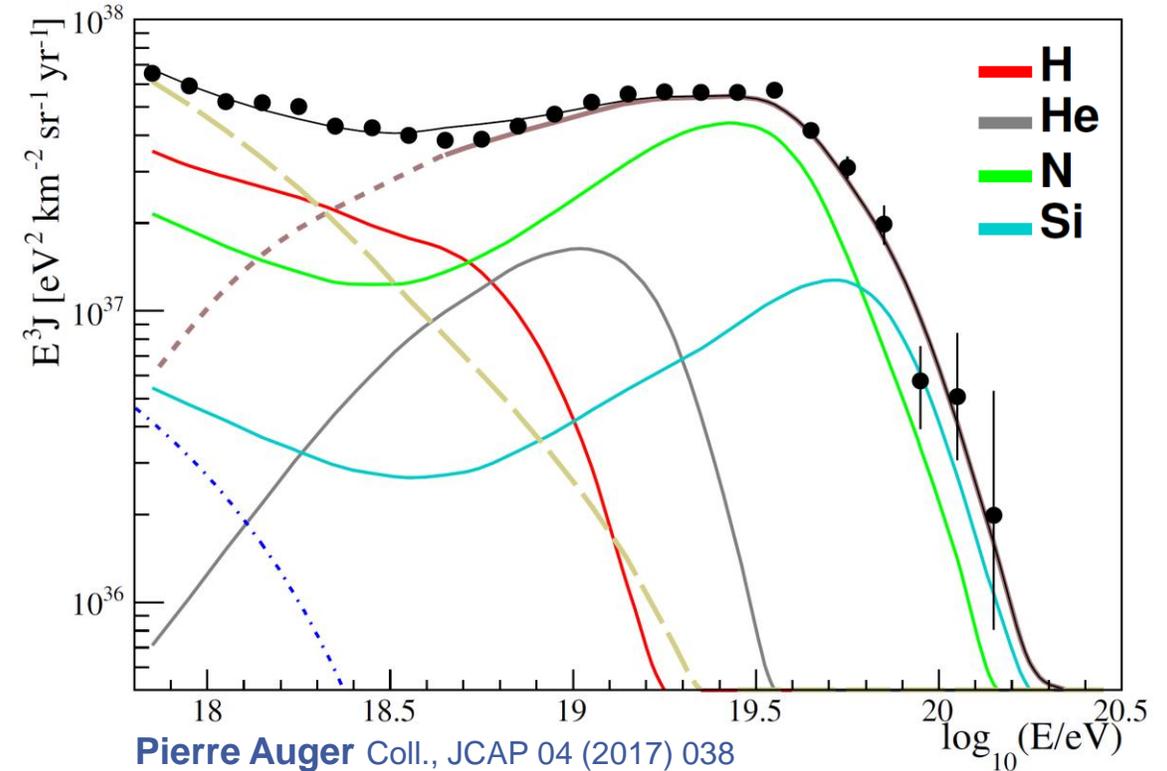
Telescope Array Coll., PoS (ICRC2019) 280

# Interpretations of UHECR flux and open questions

- Cut-off due to maximum acceleration energy and/or due to propagation?
  - Need to determine proton fraction at highest energies
- Ankle likely a mixture of propagation effects and transition between components
  - Is this the transition from Galactic to extragalactic CR, or different extragalactic components?



D. Biehl et al., PoS (ICRC2019) 196

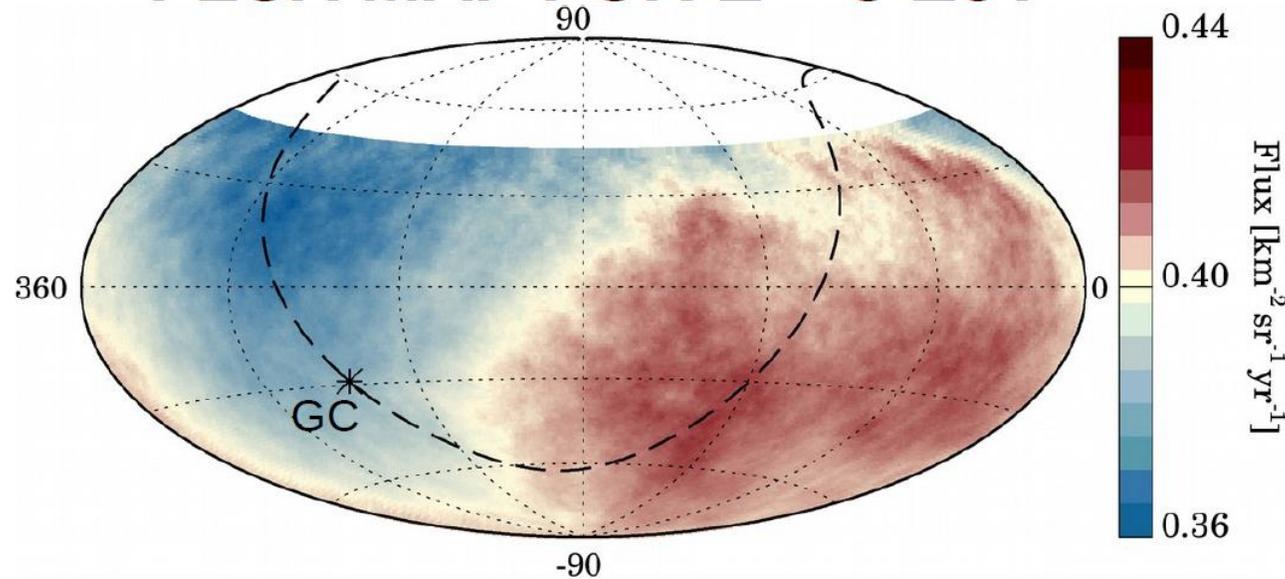


Pierre Auger Coll., JCAP 04 (2017) 038

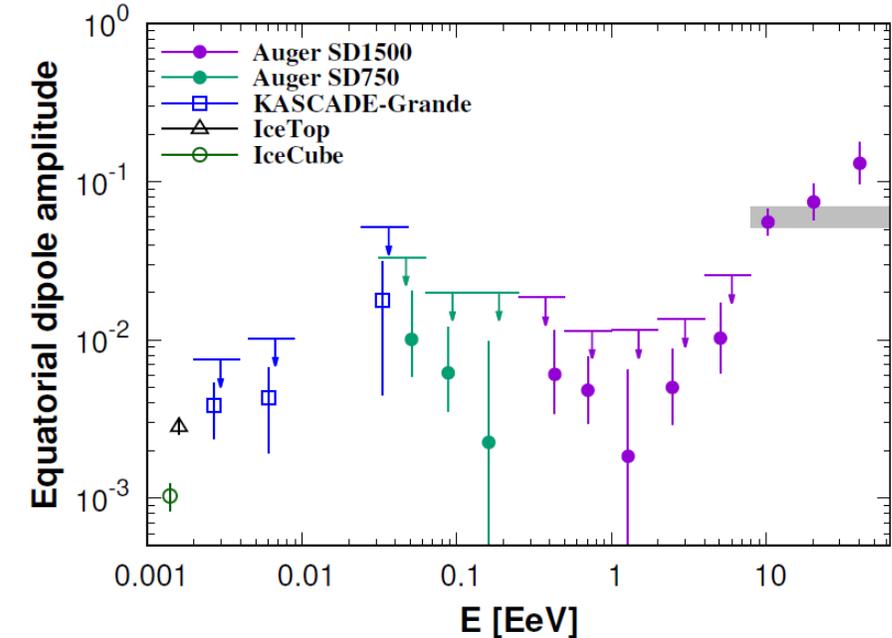
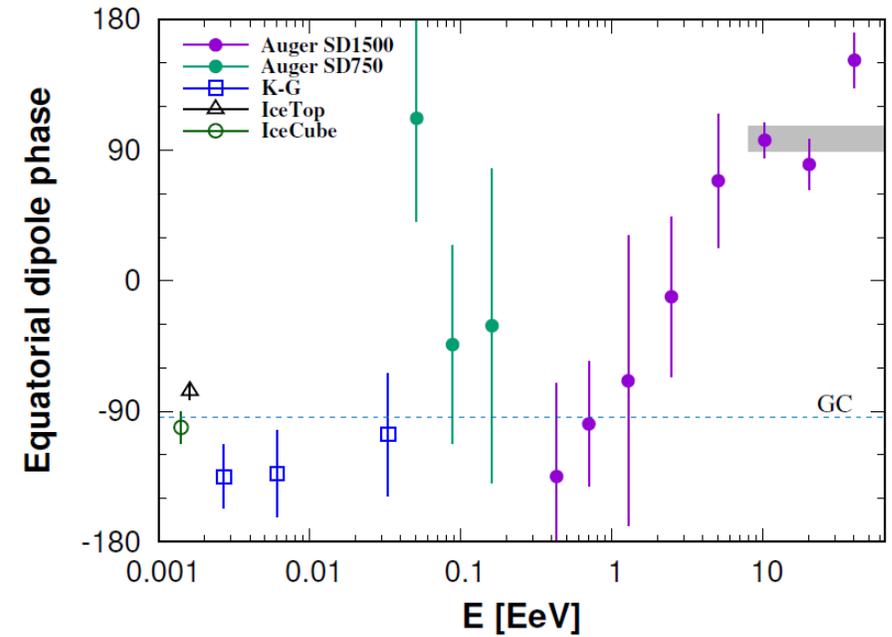
# Auger Dipole – UHECR Anisotropy

- Dipole strengths increases with energy
- Direction consistent with extragalactic origin
- Transition of dipole phase around 1 EeV: hint for Galactic-to-extragalactic transition

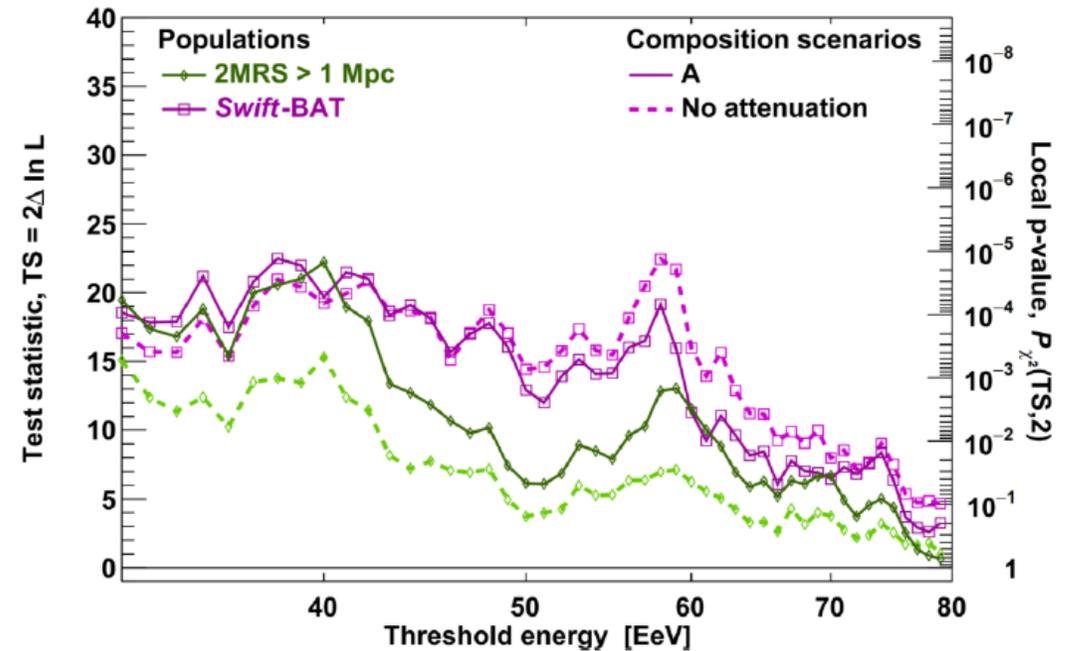
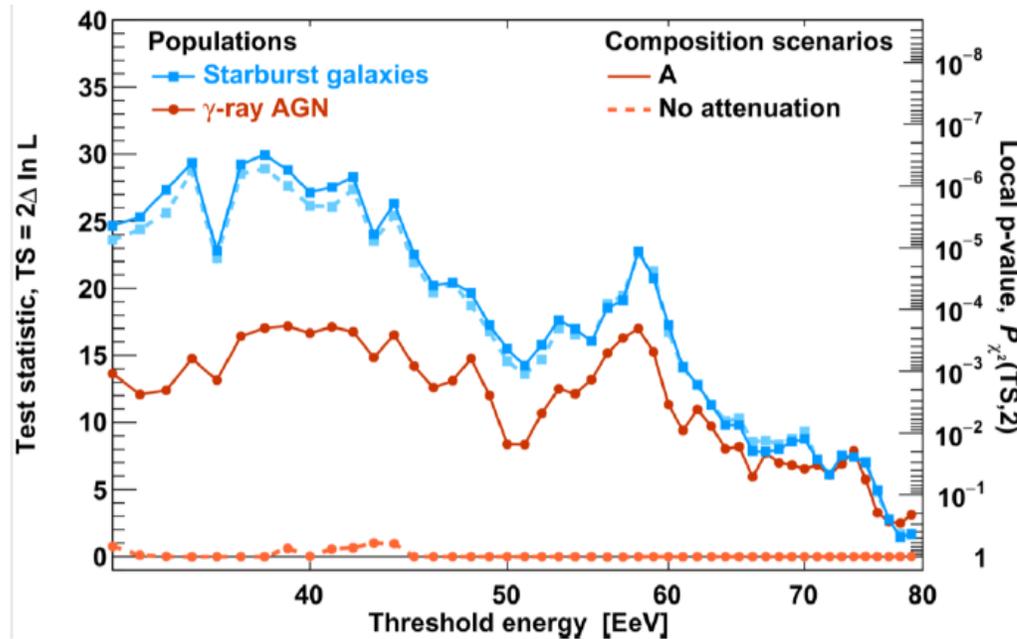
## FLUX MAP FOR $E > 8$ EeV



equatorial coordinates, smoothed on  $45^\circ$  radius windows



# Auger: Correlations with Source Candidates



Catalog	$E_{th}$	$\theta$	$f_{aniso}$	TS	Post-trial
Starburst	38 EeV	$15^{+5}_{-4}^\circ$	$11^{+5}_{-4}\%$	29.5	$45\sigma$
$\gamma$ -AGNs	39 EeV	$14^{+6}_{-4}^\circ$	$6^{+4}_{-3}\%$	17.8	$31\sigma$
Swift-Bat	38 EeV	$15^{+6}_{-4}^\circ$	$8^{+4}_{-3}\%$	22.2	$37\sigma$
2MRS	40 EeV	$15^{+7}_{-4}^\circ$	$19^{+10}_{-7}\%$	22.0	$37\sigma$

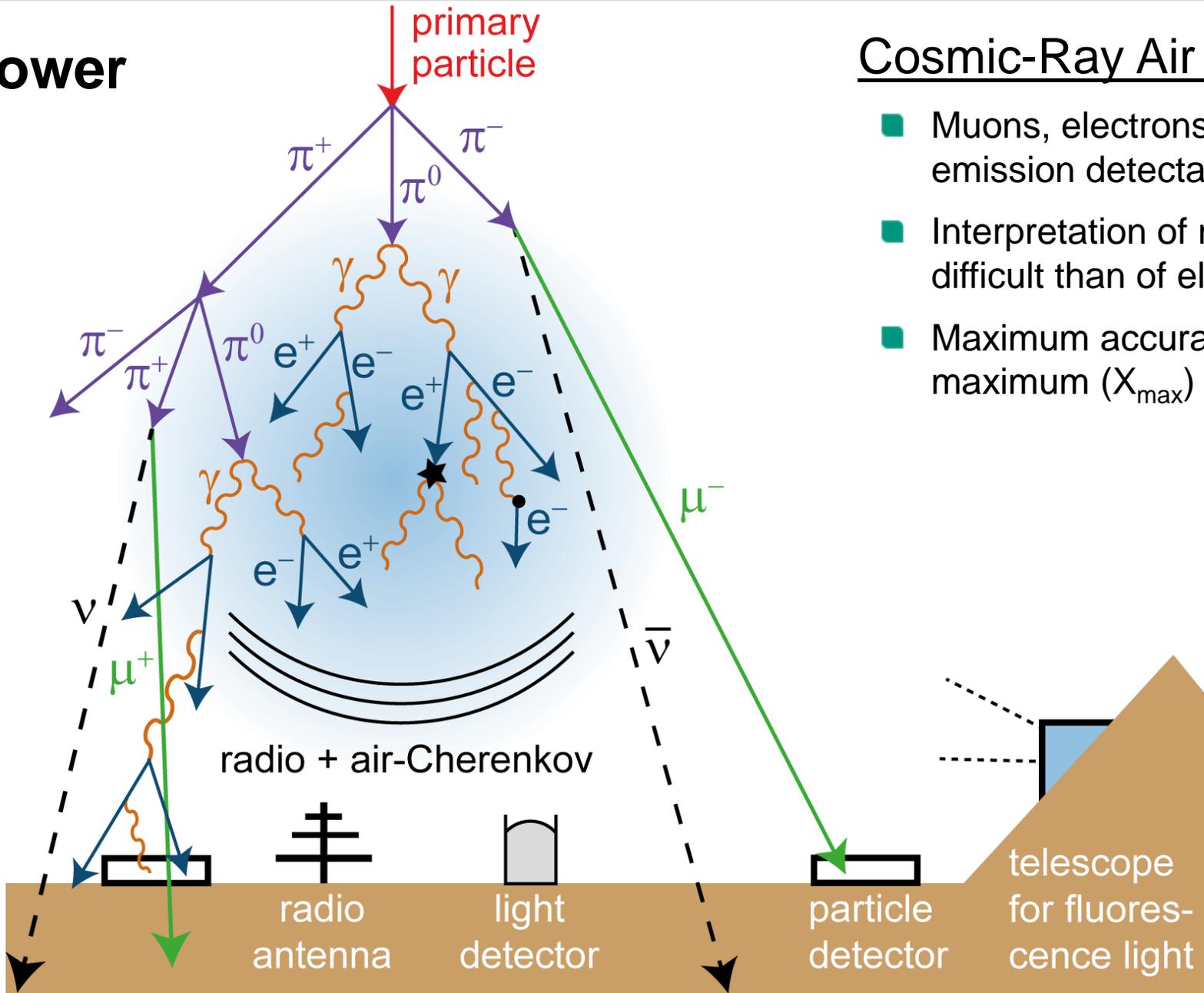
**Highest TS = 29.5 found for starburst galaxies with  $E_{th}=38$  EeV**

All the most significant excesses happen at similar  $E_{th}$  and angular scale

Note:  $15^\circ$  smeared Fisher-Von Mises distribution  $\sim 1.59 \times 15^\circ = 24 \pm 8^\circ$  top-hat

Pierre Auger Coll., PoS (ICRC2019) 206

# Air shower



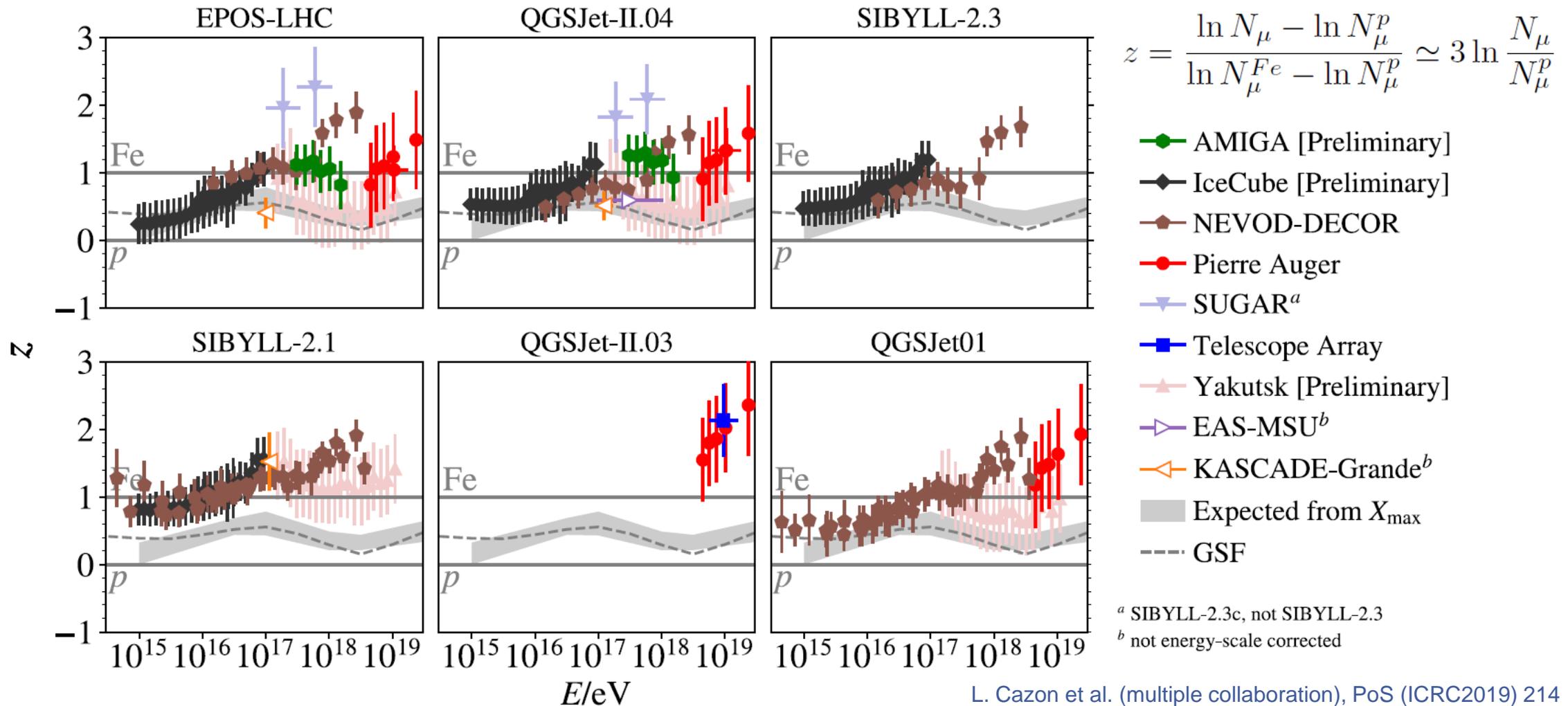
## Cosmic-Ray Air Showers

- Muons, electrons and electromagnetic emission detectable at ground
- Interpretation of muon component more difficult than of electromagnetic one
- Maximum accuracy by combining shower maximum ( $X_{\max}$ ) with electron-muon ratio

*Radio detection of cosmic-ray air showers and high-energy Neutrinos*  
 F.G. Schröder, Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 93 (2017) 1, arXiv: 1607.08781

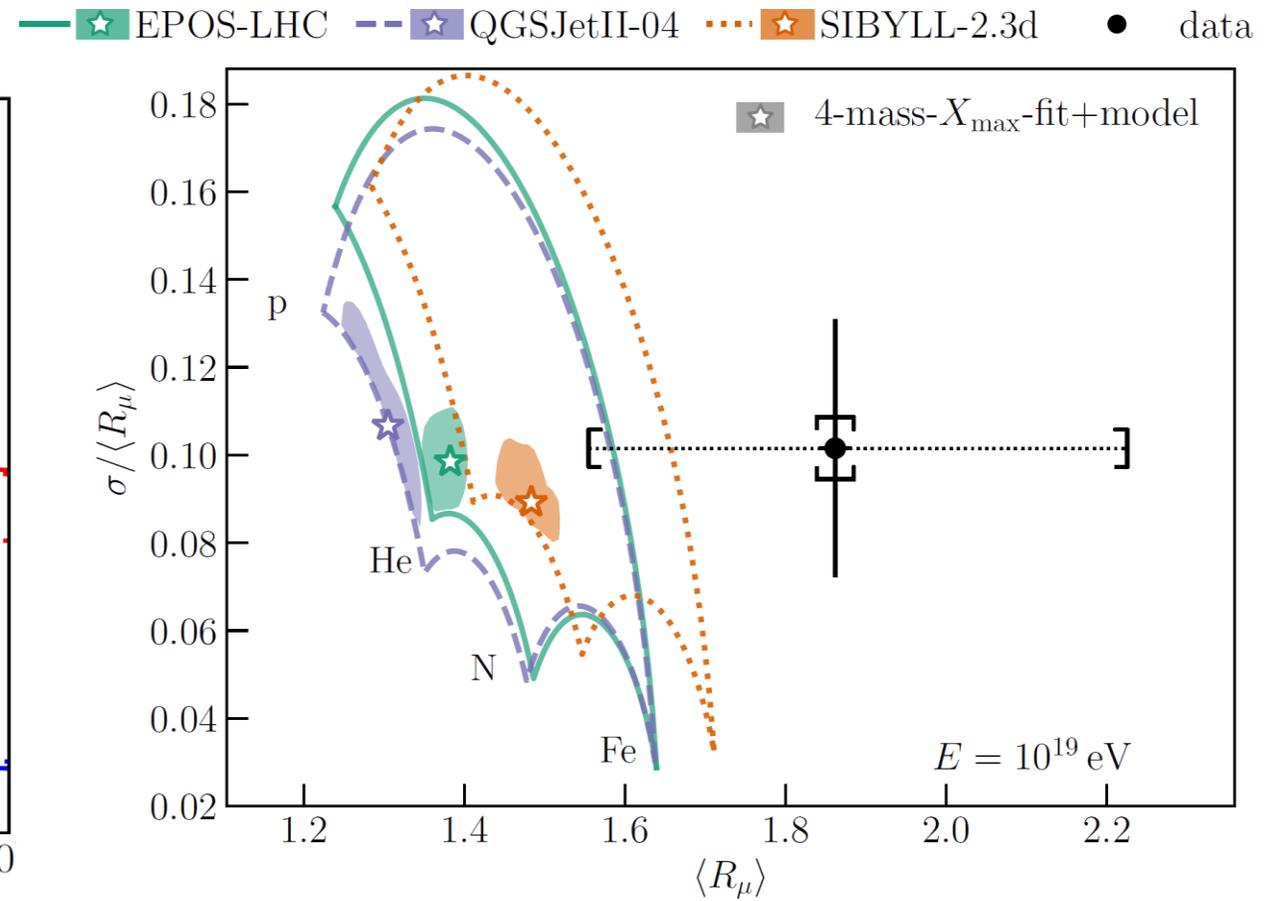
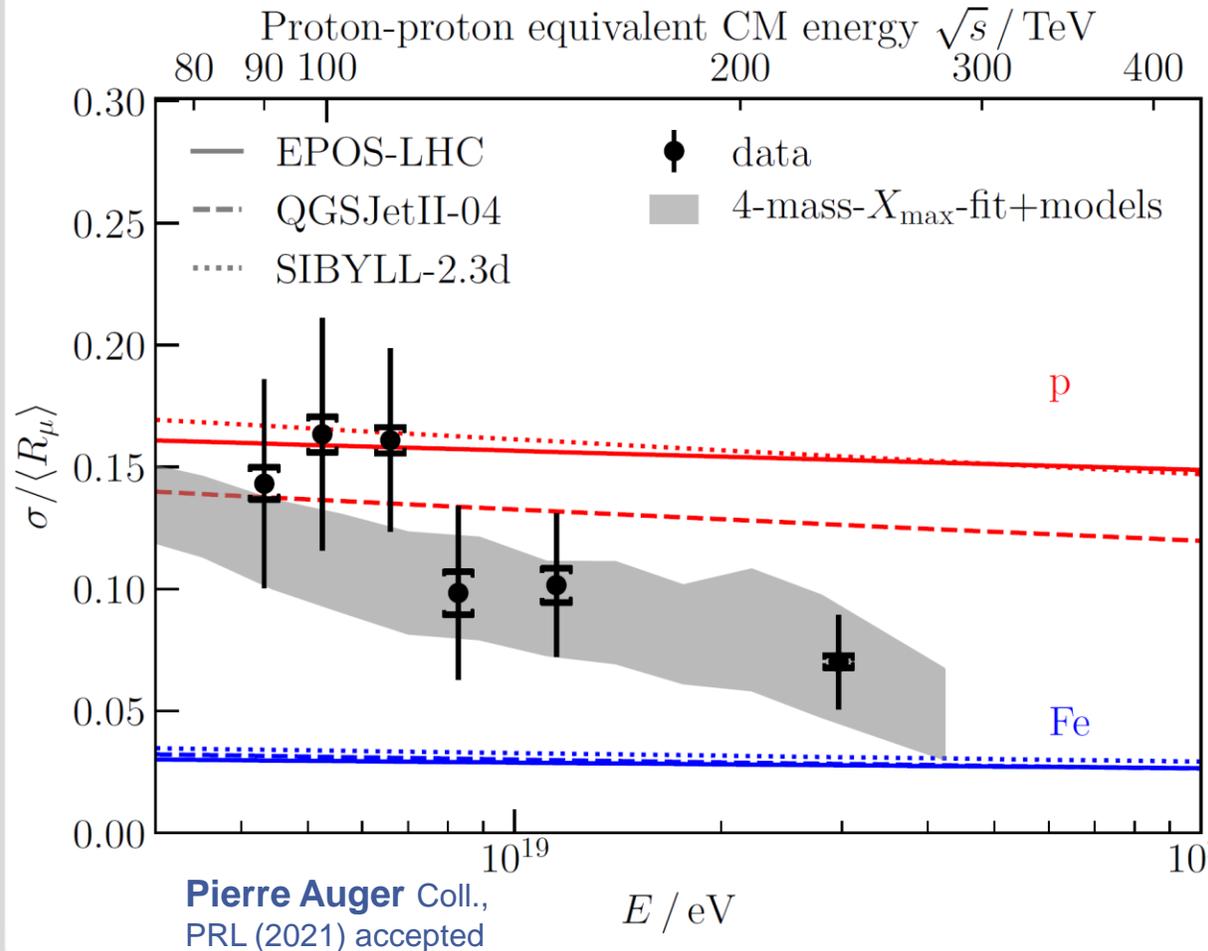
# Problems in Hadronic Interaction Models

- Accelerator Data not well described + Muon deficit in high-energy air showers



# Fluctuation of muon number measured by Auger

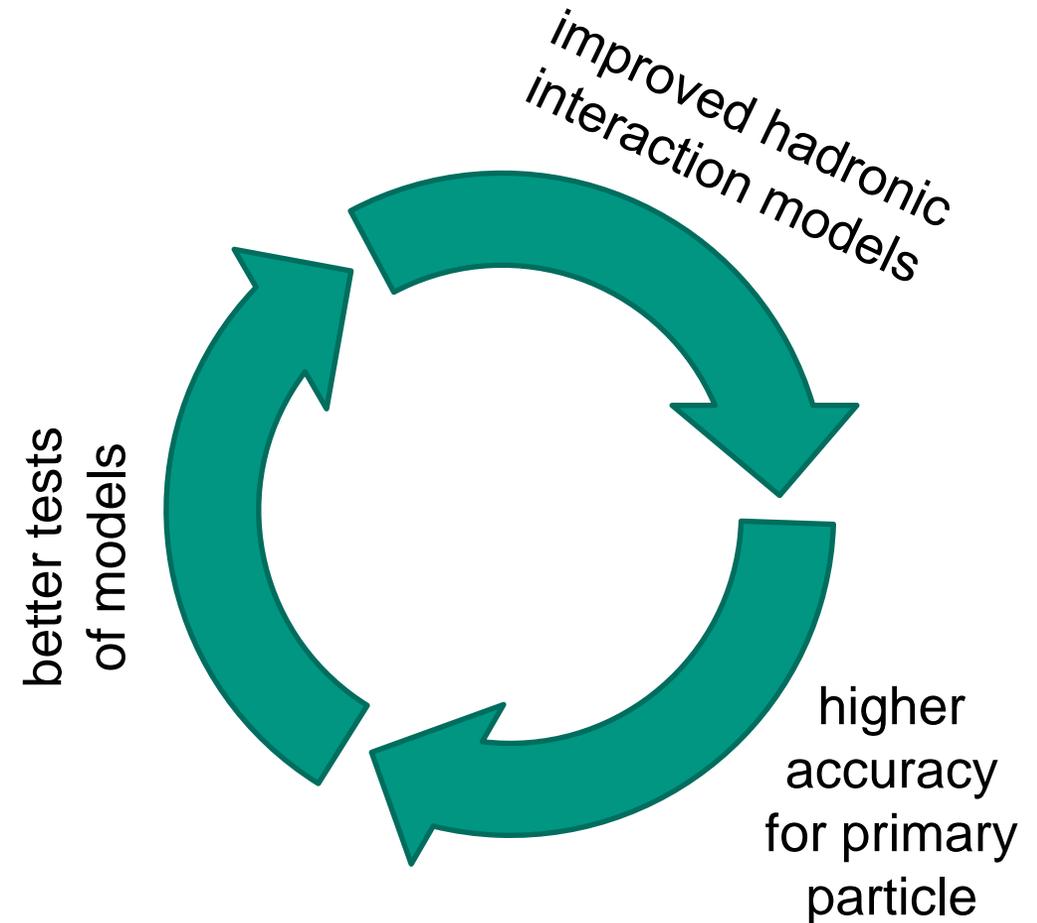
- Hadronic interaction models can describe variations in muon number, but not absolute number



# How to increase accuracy for CRs?

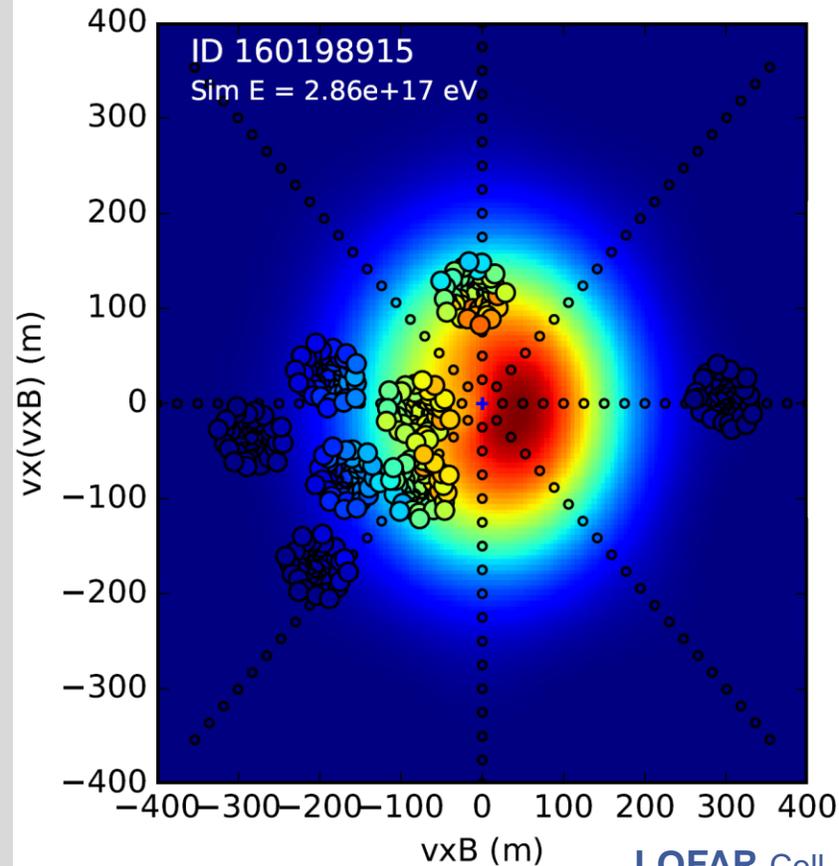
- Accuracy of **mass** of primary particle depends on interpretation of air-showers observables measured by detectors
  - unknown systematic uncertainty for interpretation of muons (all models out of range)
  - small systematic uncertainty for interpretation of  $X_{\max}$  (approx. H to He difference)
- Improvements of hadronic interaction models critical for field of CR
  - input from by air-shower experiments
  - accelerator measurements (e.g, p-O at LHC ...)

virtuous circle of  
cosmic-ray physics



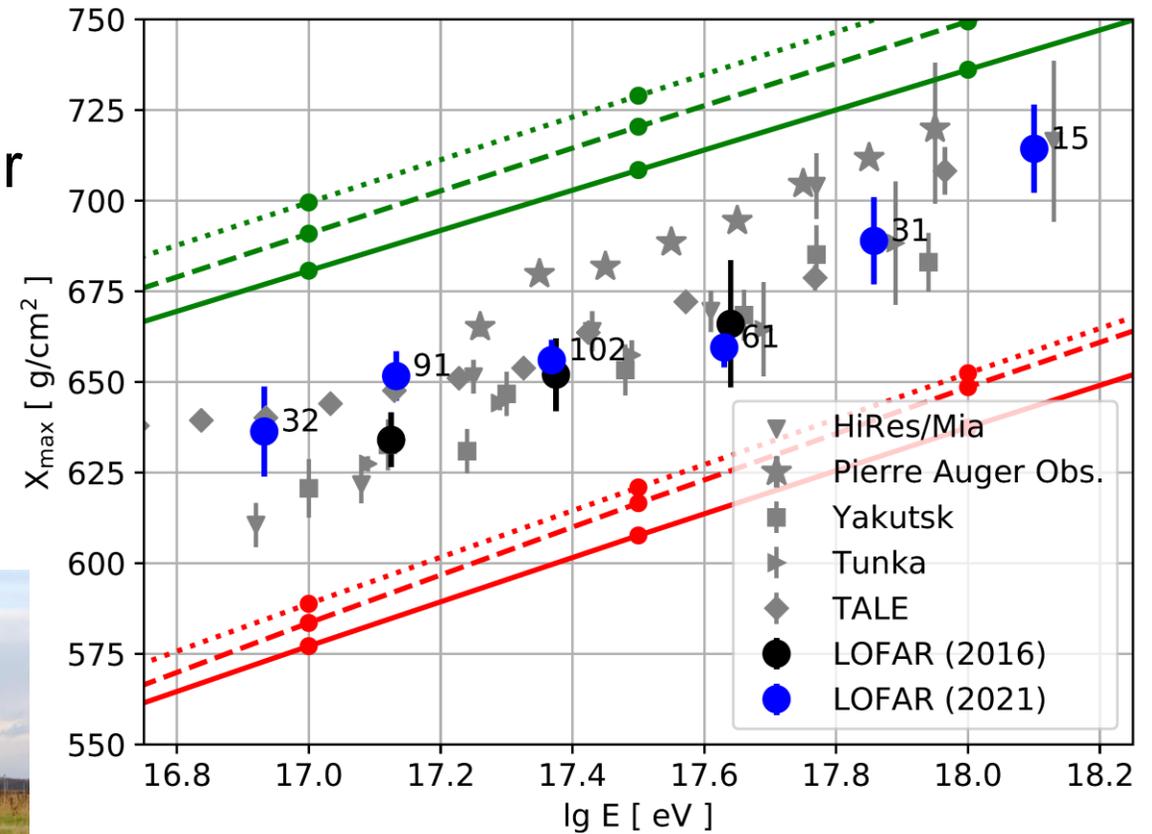
# Radio Detection

- Radio emitted by em.-component of shower
- Accurate energy and  $X_{\max}$  measurement



LOFAR antenna

LOFAR Coll., arXiv:2103.12549



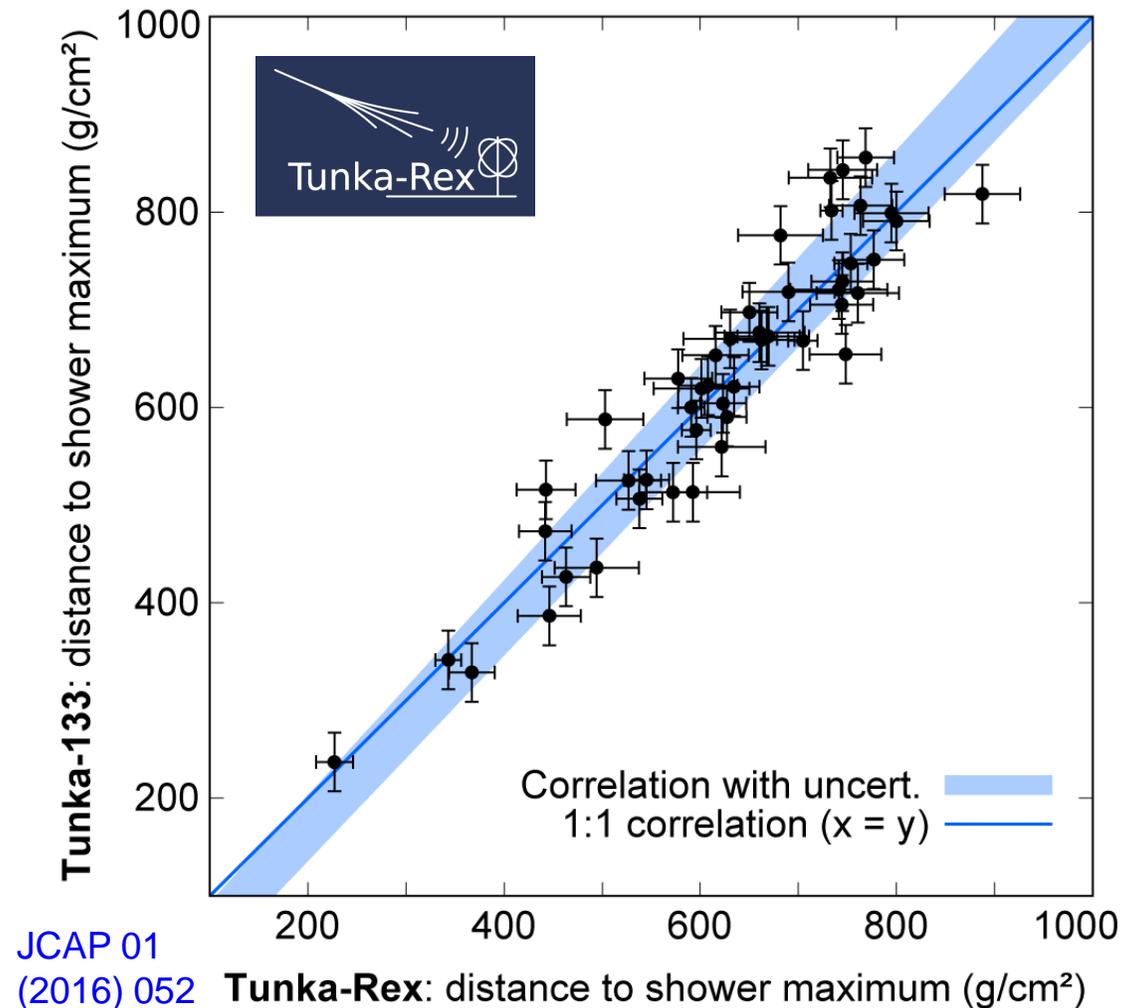
## Example:

Most recent  $X_{\max}$  measurement by LOFAR based on fitting CoREAS simulations to antenna signals

Radio  $X_{\max}$  also by Auger and Tunka-Rex

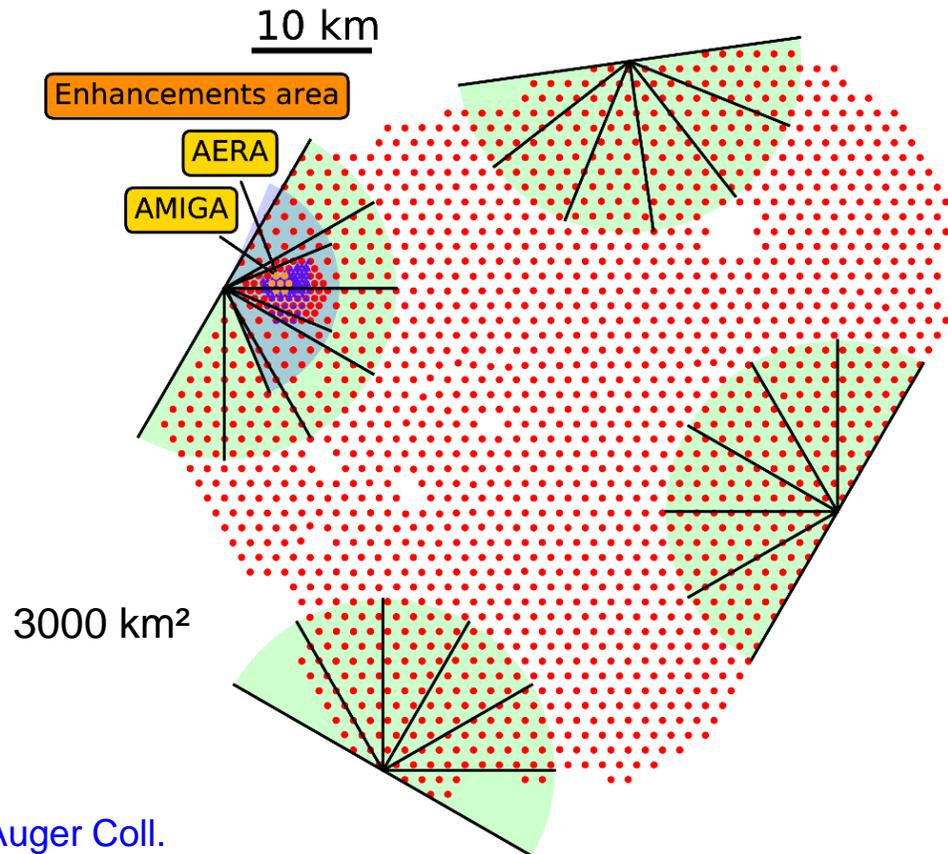
# Tunka Radio Extension (Tunka-Rex) in Siberia, 2012 – 2018

- Direct proof of radio  $X_{\max}$  sensitivity by comparison to Cherenkov-light detectors

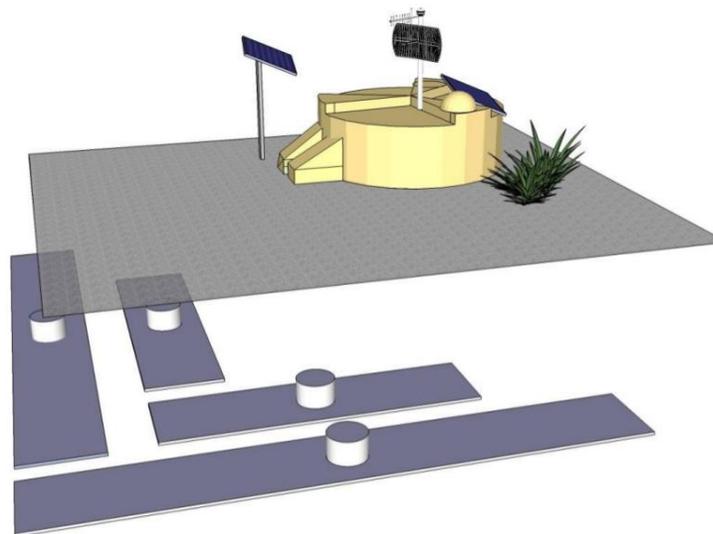


# Auger Engineering Radio Array (AERA) at the Pierre Auger Observatory

- water-Cherenkov detectors (SD)
- AERA (RD)
- AMIGA Unitary Cell (MD)
- FD field of view
- HEAT field of view



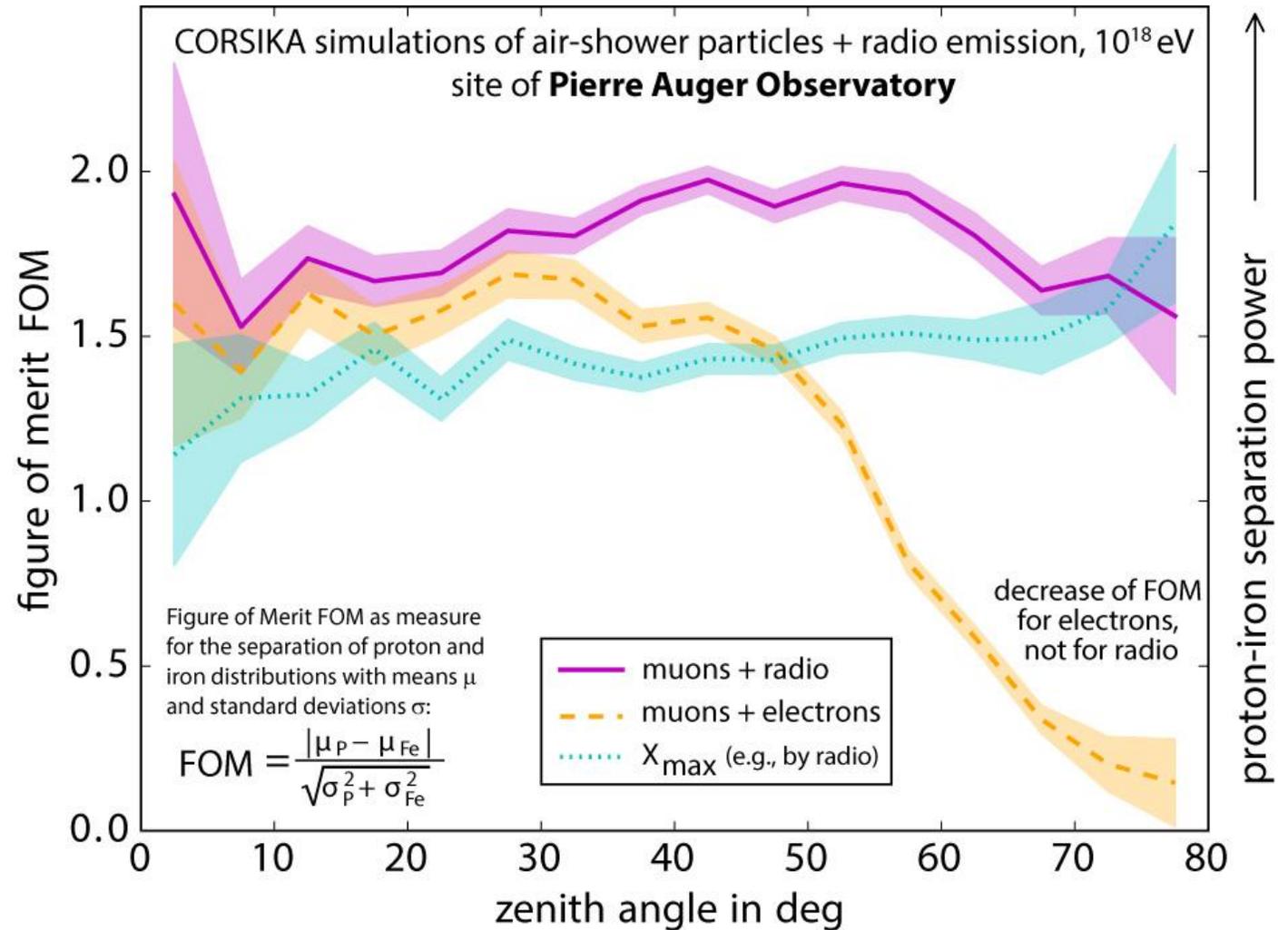
- 153 autonomous radio stations on 17 km<sup>2</sup>
  - different antennas, electronics, triggers,...
- Coincident measurements with surface, underground and fluorescence detectors



Auger Coll.

# Key for many science goals: Mass Separation power

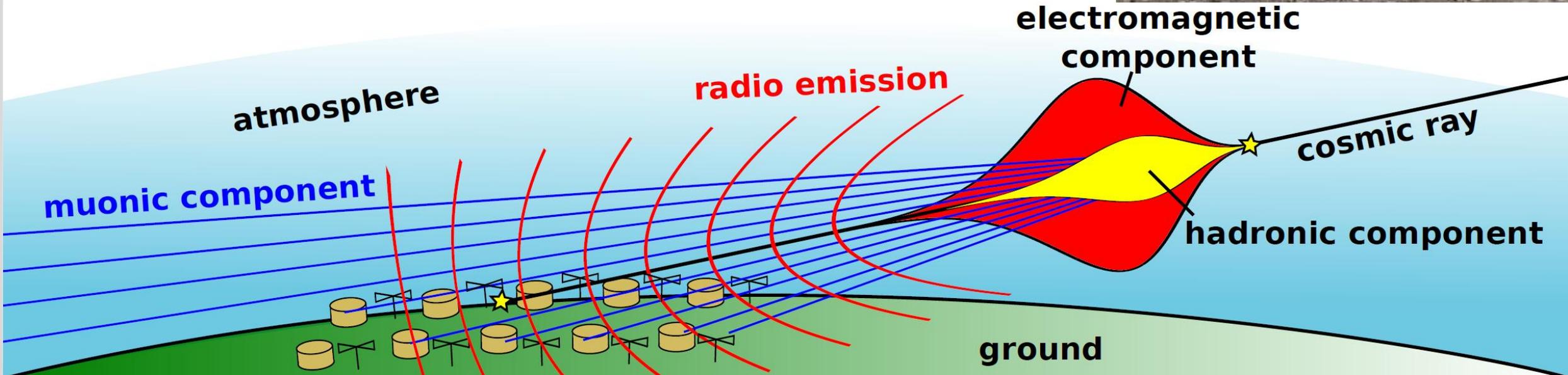
- Radio can enhance mass sensitivity for all zenith angles, in particular for inclined showers
- Radio + Muons have similar mass separation power as  $X_{\max}$
- maximum accuracy for air-shower measurements by combining radio + muons!
- Plots show potential of the methods (no detector properties considered; vertical showers require a dense antenna spacing)



Pierre Auger Coll., EPJ WoC 216 (2019) 02002  
more details in E. Holt et al., EPJ C 79 (2019) 371

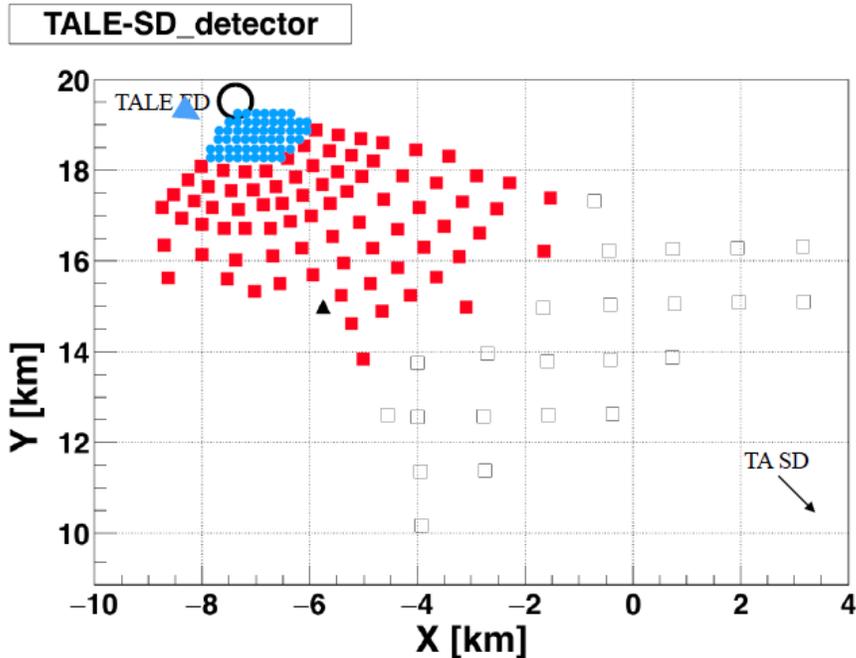
# AugerPrime: Upgrade of the Pierre Auger Observatory

- Improved quality of surface detector:
  - scintillators + radio antennas
  - underground muon detectors
  - better electronics
- Enables *per-event mass discrimination*

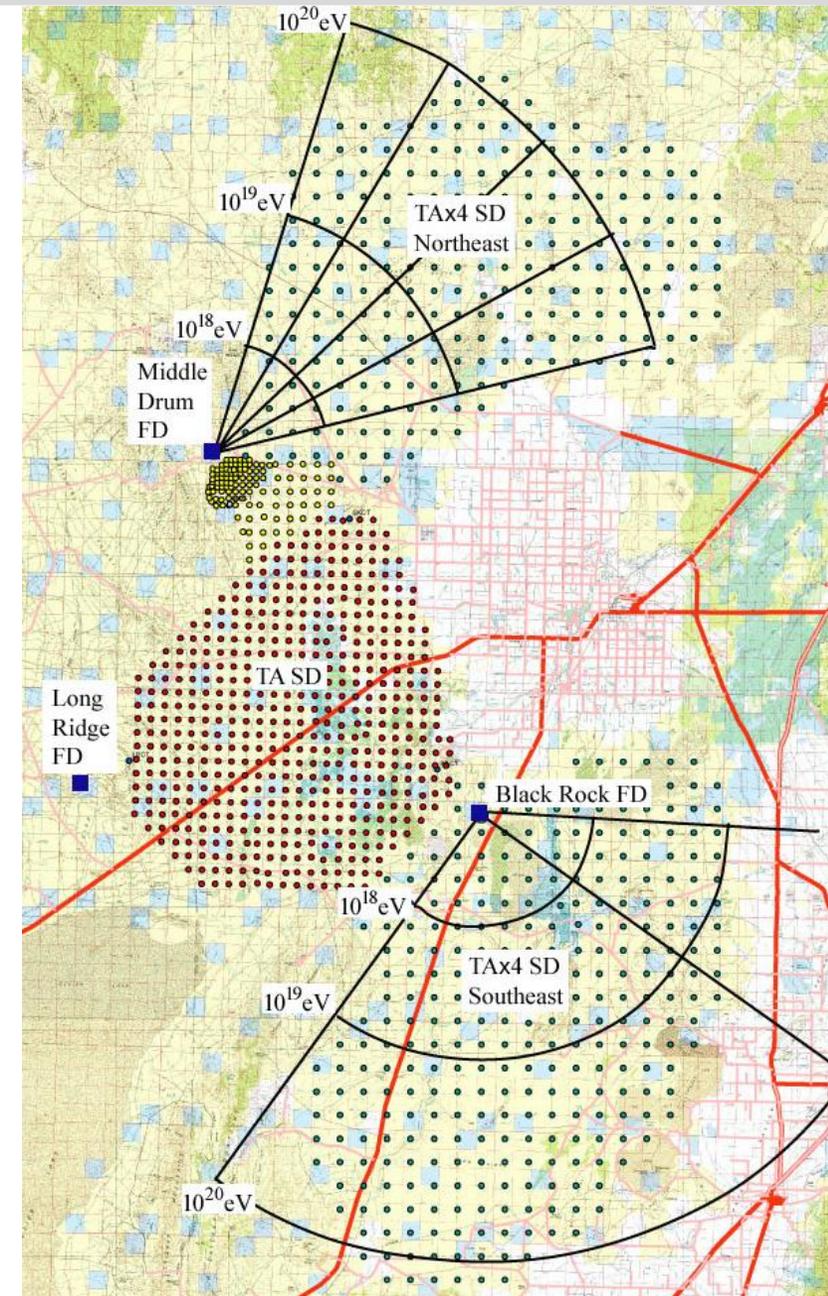


# Telescope Array: Upgrades

- Highest energies ( $E > 10^{19.8}$  eV)
  - TAx4  $\rightarrow$  3000 km<sup>2</sup> scintillator array
  - new fluorescence telescopes
- Lower energies ( $E > 10^{15.5}$  eV):
  - TALE SD array complementing NICHE and FD



Telescope Array Coll.,  
PoS (ICRC2019) 013 + 375



# LHAASO – a 1 km<sup>2</sup> multi-hybrid detector in China

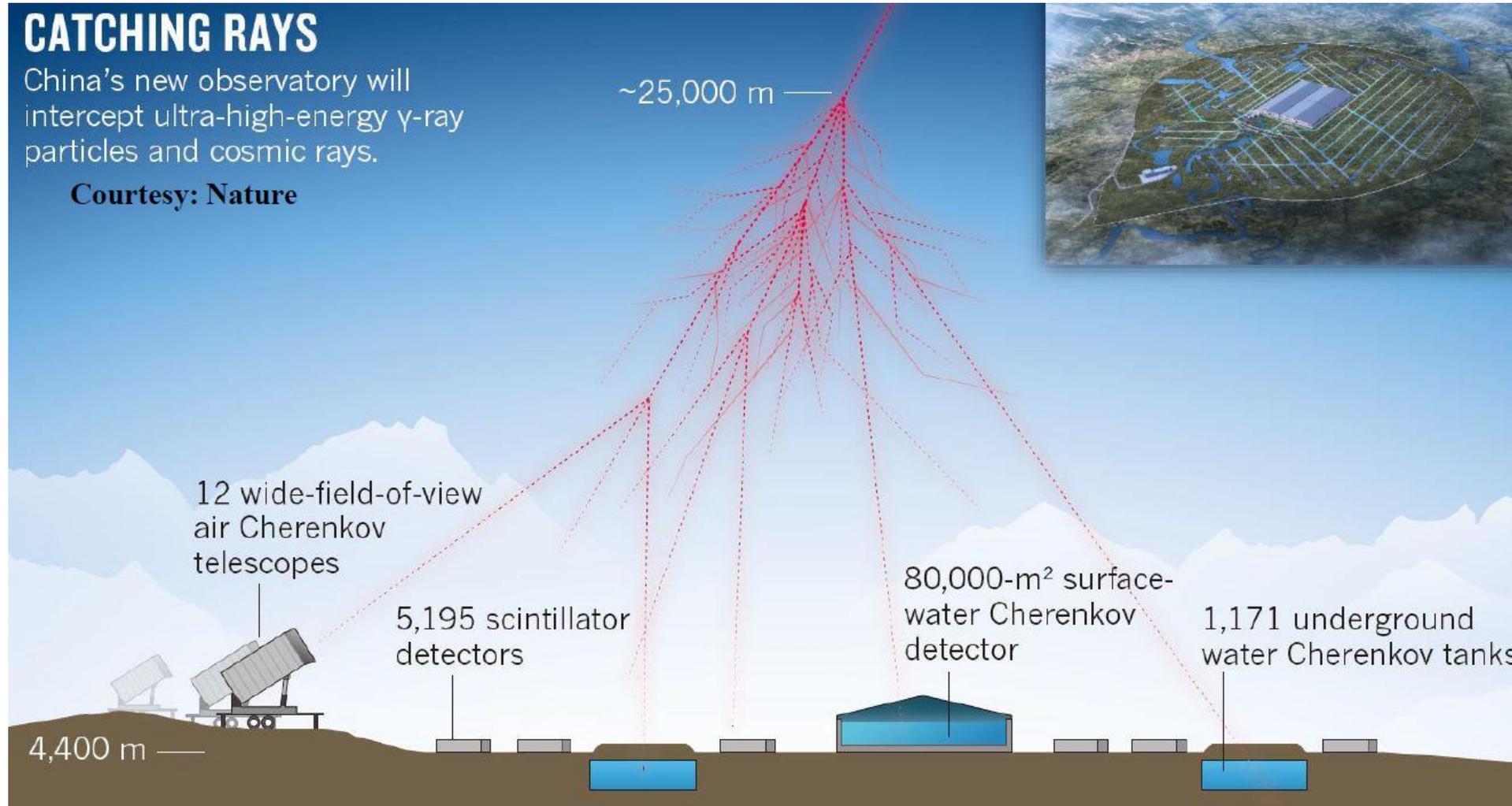


Primary goal are gamma-rays, but also excellent cosmic-ray detector

## CATCHING RAYS

China's new observatory will intercept ultra-high-energy  $\gamma$ -ray particles and cosmic rays.

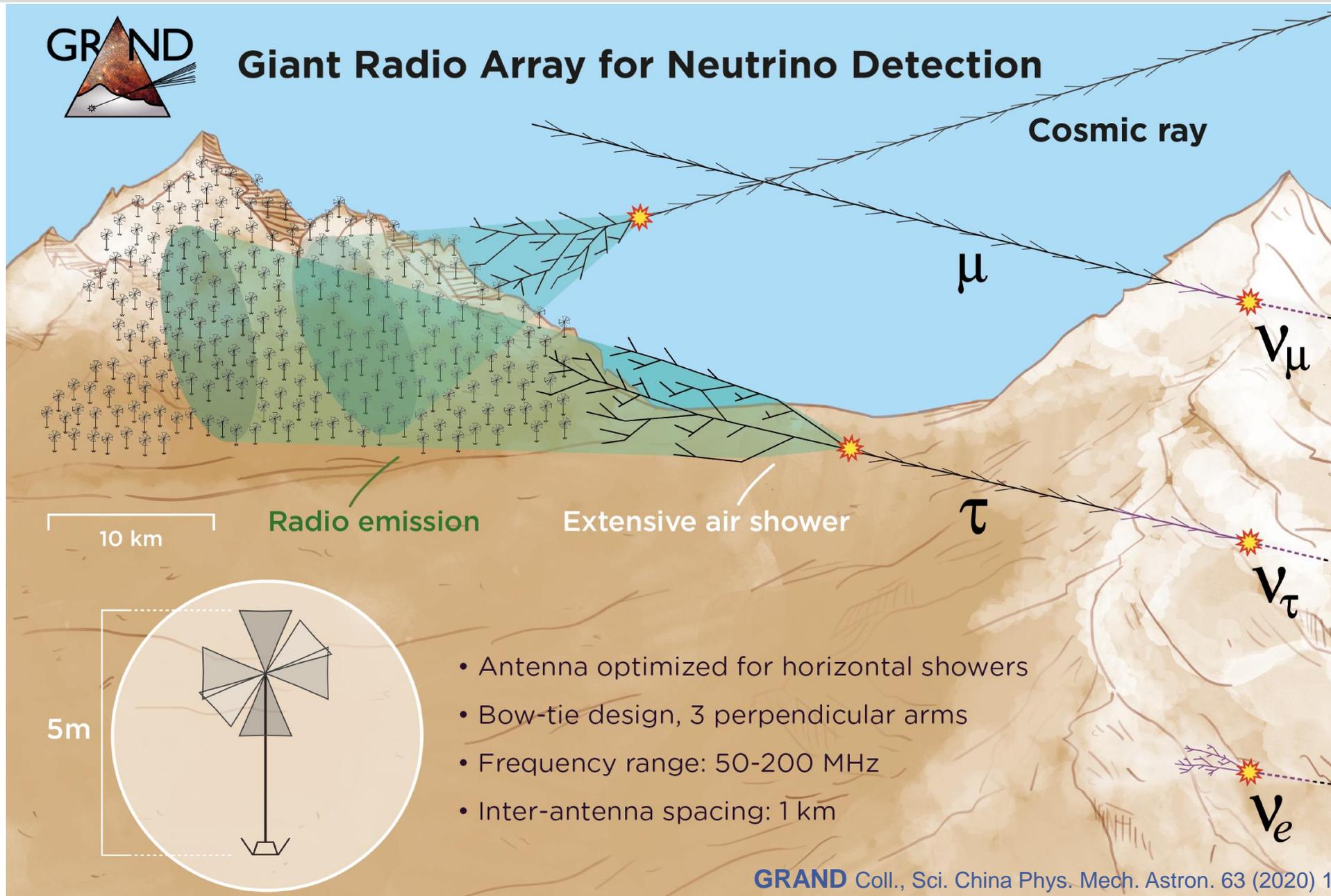
Courtesy: Nature



LHAASO Coll.,  
PoS (ICRC2019) 693



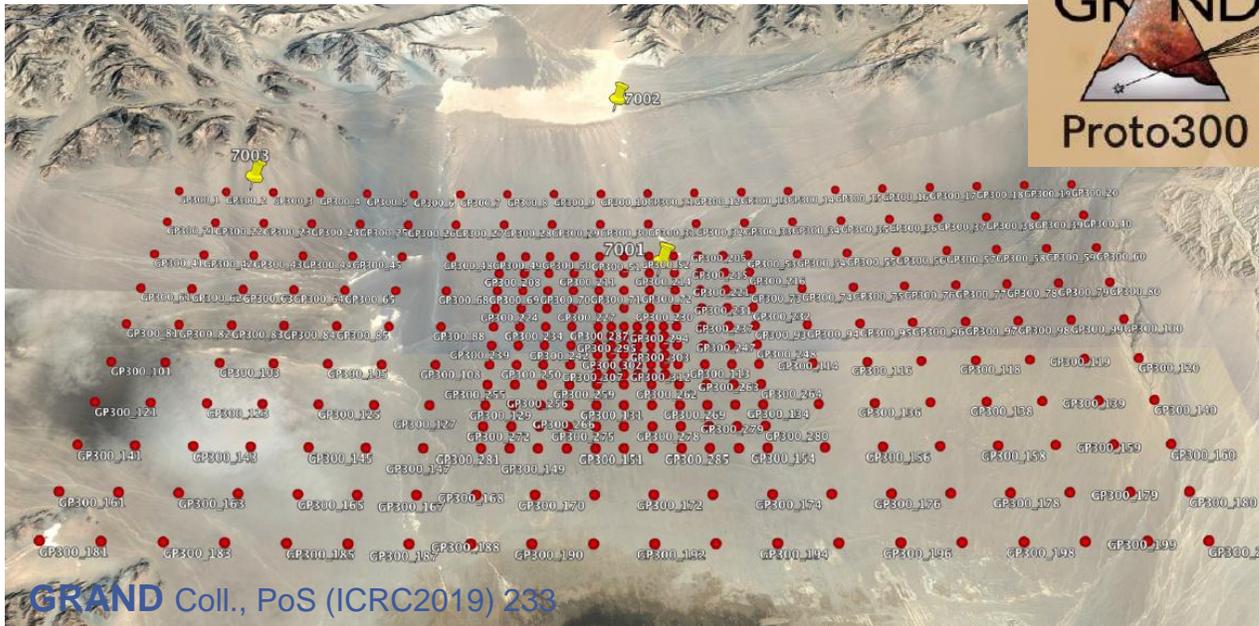
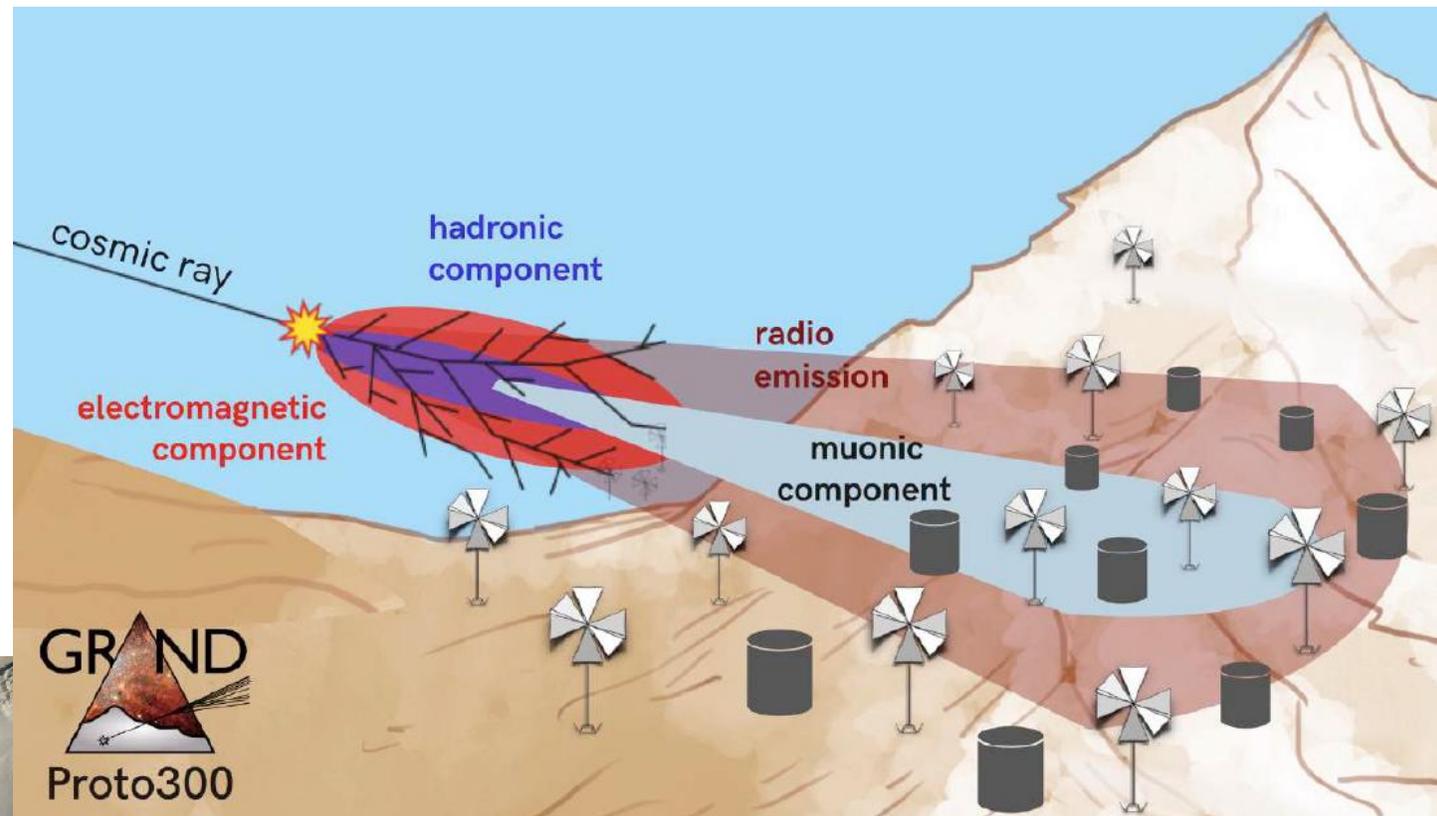
# Giant Radio Array for Neutrino Detection



GRAND Coll., Sci. China Phys. Mech. Astron. 63 (2020) 1

# GRANDproto300

- Cosmic-Ray science in EeV range with inclined air showers
  - 300 antennas on 200 km<sup>2</sup>
  - Auger-like water-Cherenkov detectors for muons
  - future stages will be antennas only

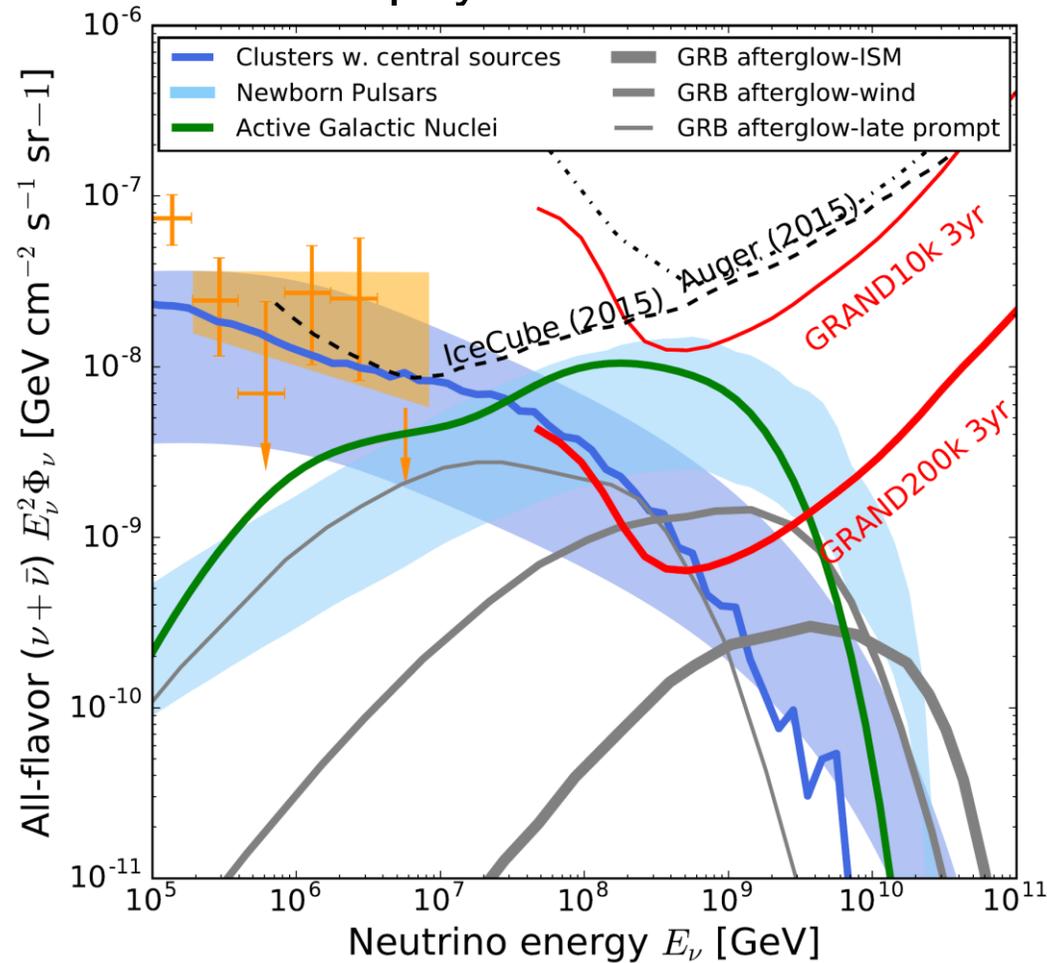


## ■ Prototype for next stages of GRAND

- GRAND 10k will have comparable exposure to Auger for cosmic rays
- GRAND 200k (if build) may complement future space missions for UHECR

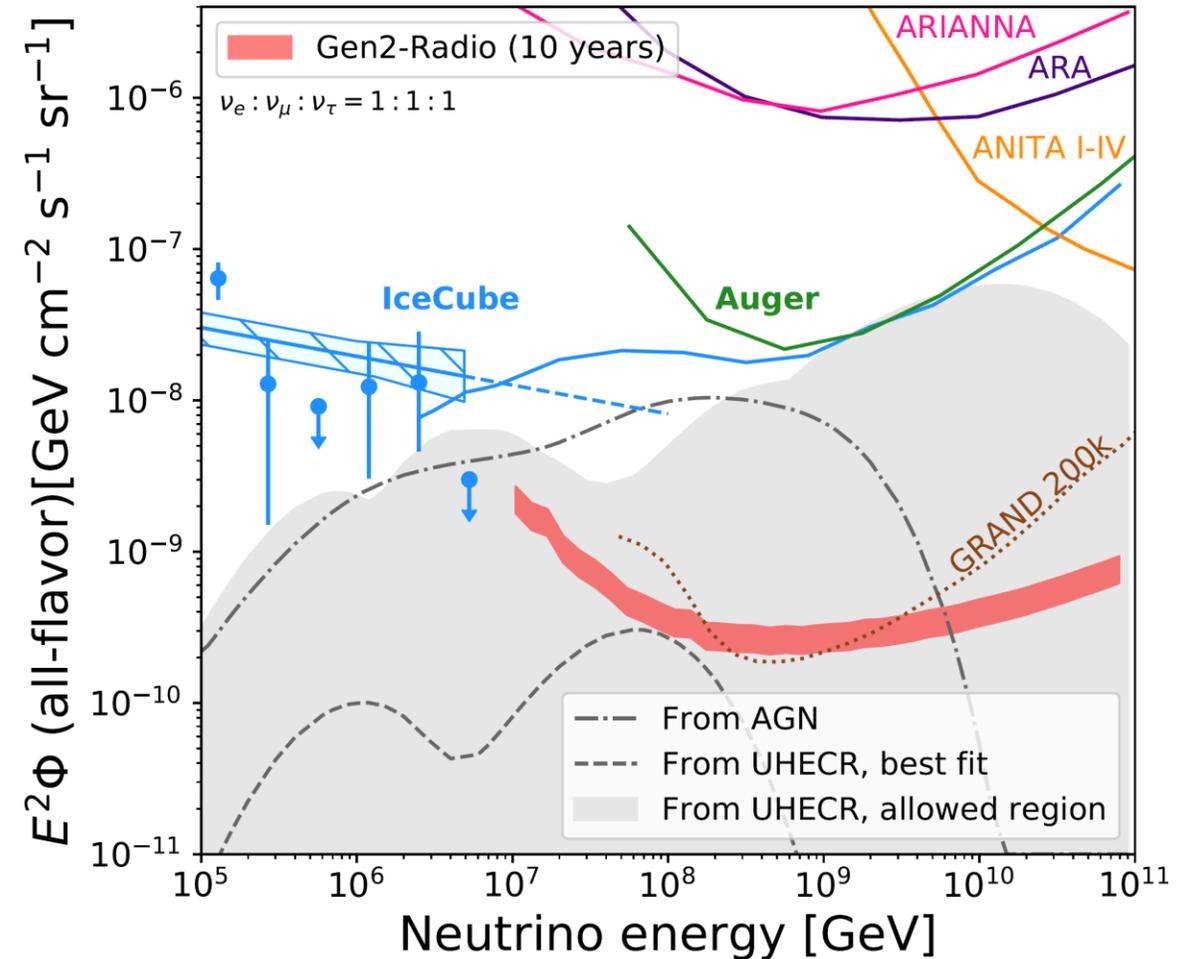
# GRAND and IceCube-Gen2 sensitivities for EeV neutrinos

## Astrophysical Neutrinos



GRAND Coll., Sci. China Phys. Mech. Astron. 63 (2020) 1

## Cosmogenic Neutrinos



IceCube-Gen2 Whitepaper, arXiv:2008.04323

# IceCube-Gen2

- an order of magnitude larger optical and surface arrays
- sparse *in-ice radio* array for detection of Askaryan emission from ultra-high-energy neutrinos



ICECUBE  
GEN2

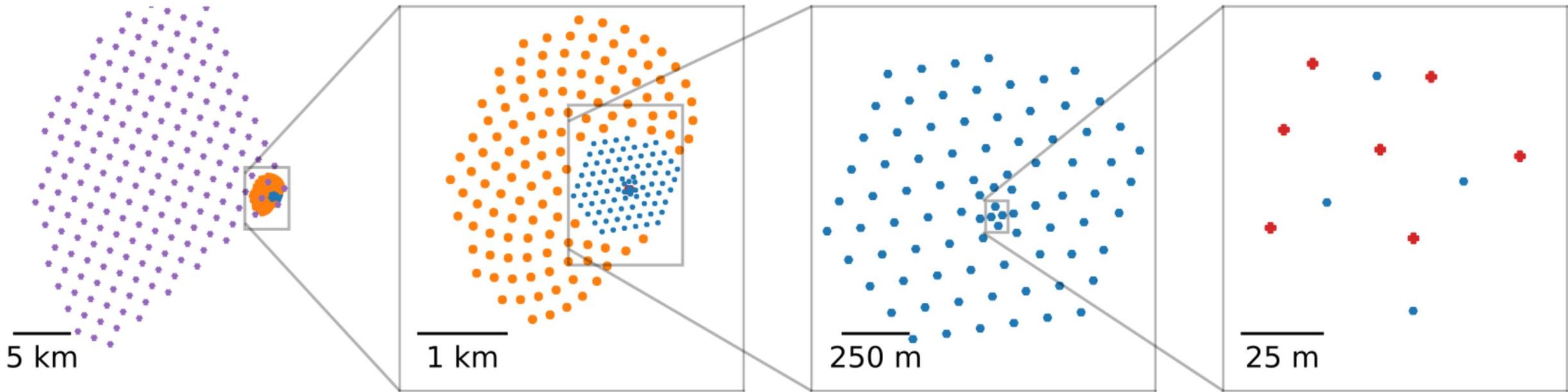
arXiv:2008.04323

γ Gen2-Radio

● IceCube-Gen2

● IceCube

✚ IceCube Upgrade



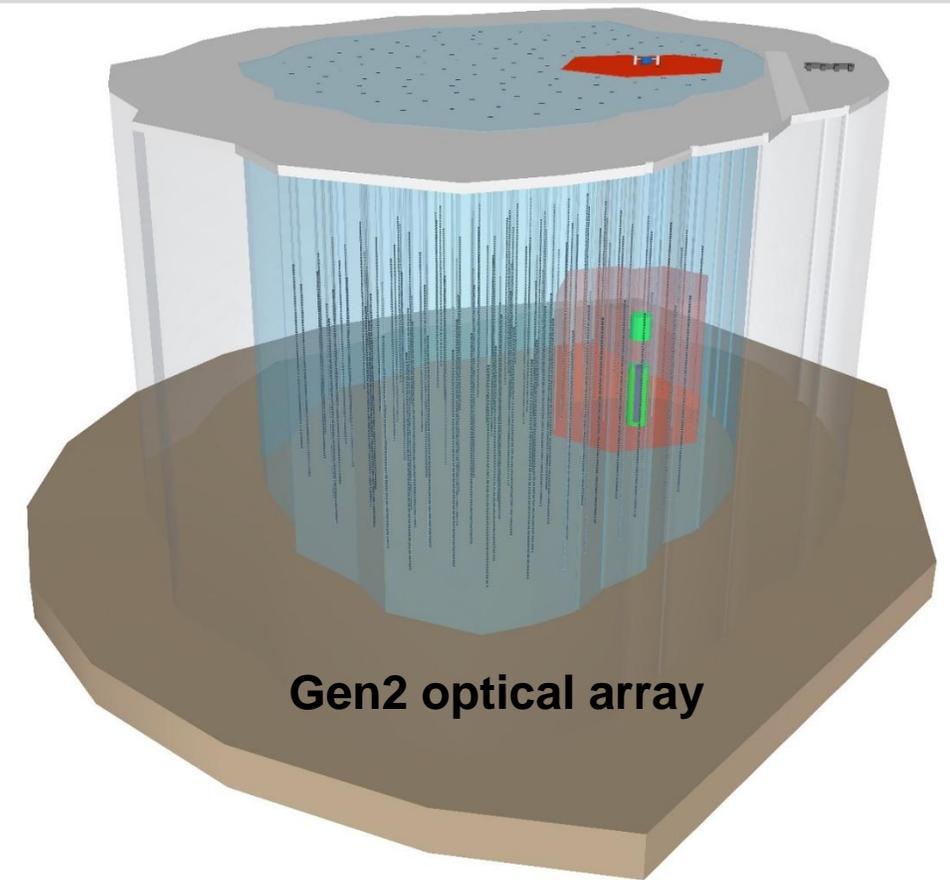
**IceCube-Gen2 planned construction: 2024-2032**

**completed in 2010**

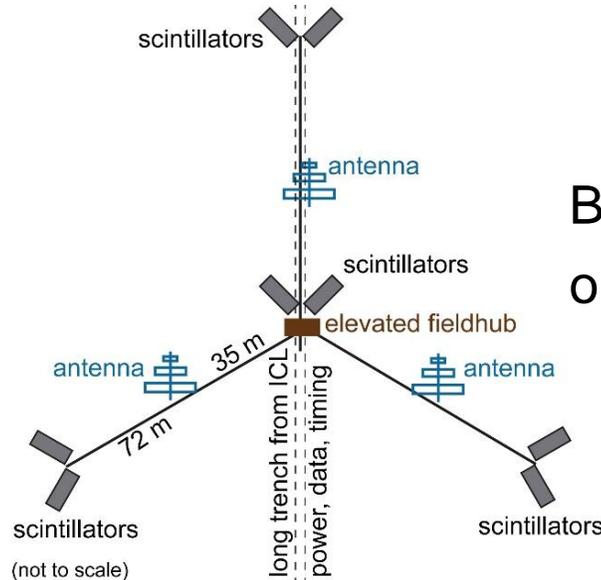
**under construction**

# IceCube-Gen2 Surface Array

- Enhancement of IceTop surface array continued for IceCube-Gen2 surface array
- High accuracy for most energetic Galactic cosmic rays in the PeV to EeV region



Gen2 optical array



Baseline design of Gen2 Surface Array:  
one station per optical string (122)

- 4 pairs of scintillators enabling low threshold for veto
- 3 radio antennas increasing accuracy at high energies

# Conclusion: Ultra-high-energy Cosmic Rays

## ■ Recent results

- New features in cosmic-ray energy spectrum (many features known by now)
- Mixed mass composition of cosmic rays varies over energy
- Various experiments mostly consistent within systematic uncertainties

## ■ Open questions

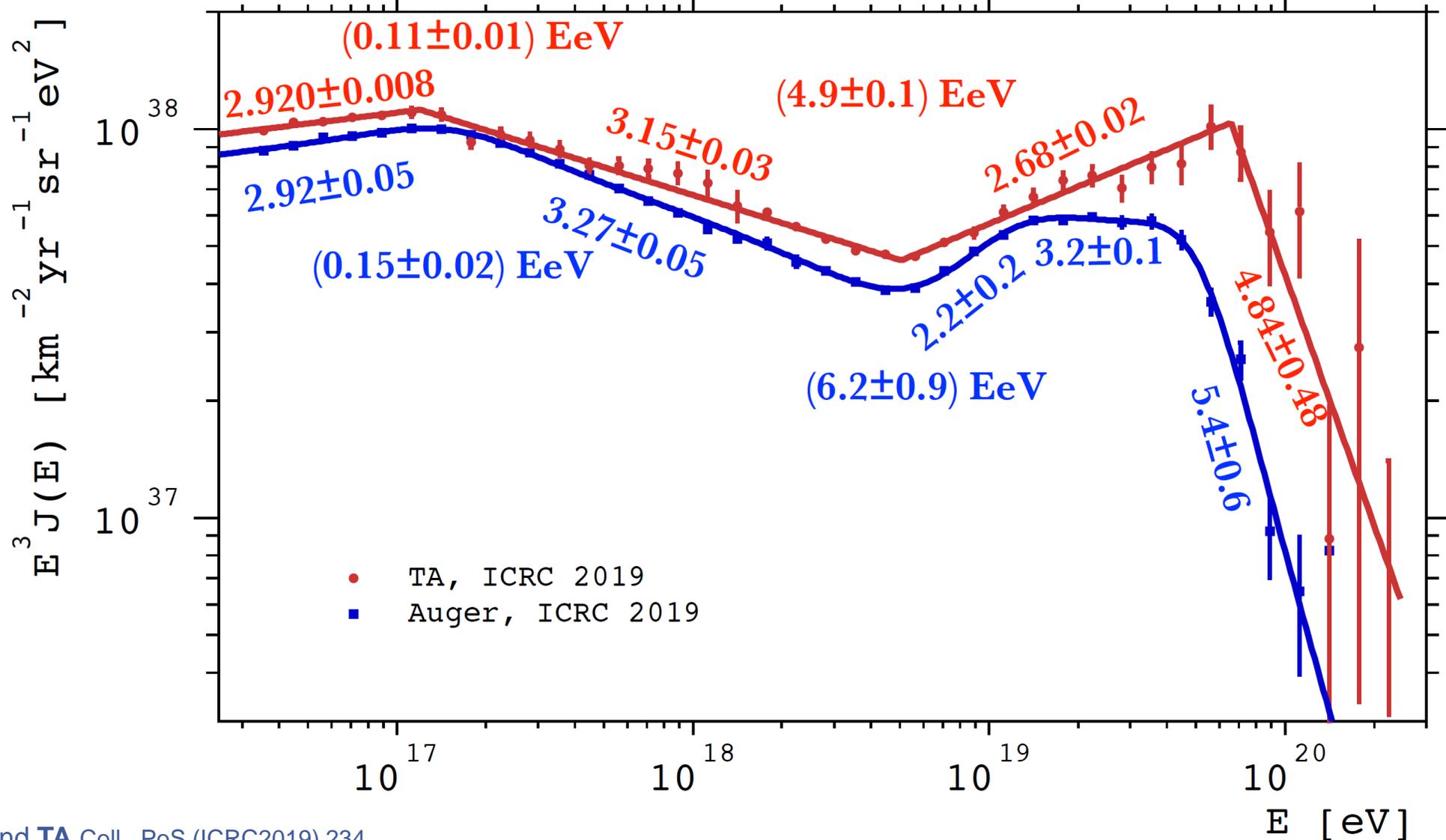
- What is the origin and maximum energy of the most energetic *Galactic* cosmic rays?
- What are the *extragalactic* sources at the highest energies?
- What causes the mismatch between muon measurements and predictions by models?

## ■ Future plans: *statistics and accuracy*

- Upgrades of current ground arrays aim at per-event estimation of primary particle type
- Proposals for new ground arrays: GRAND and the Global Cosmic Ray Observatory (GCOS)
- Future space experiments important to increase exposure at highest energies

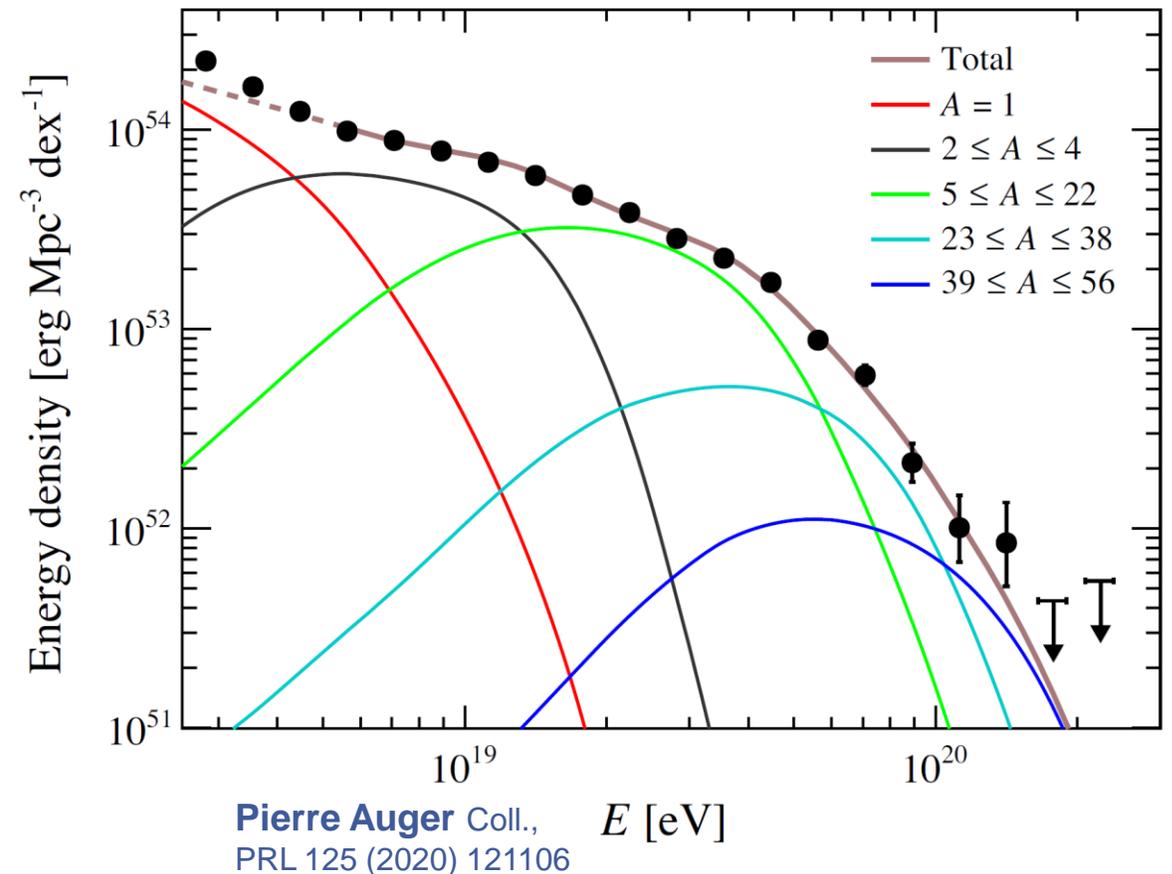
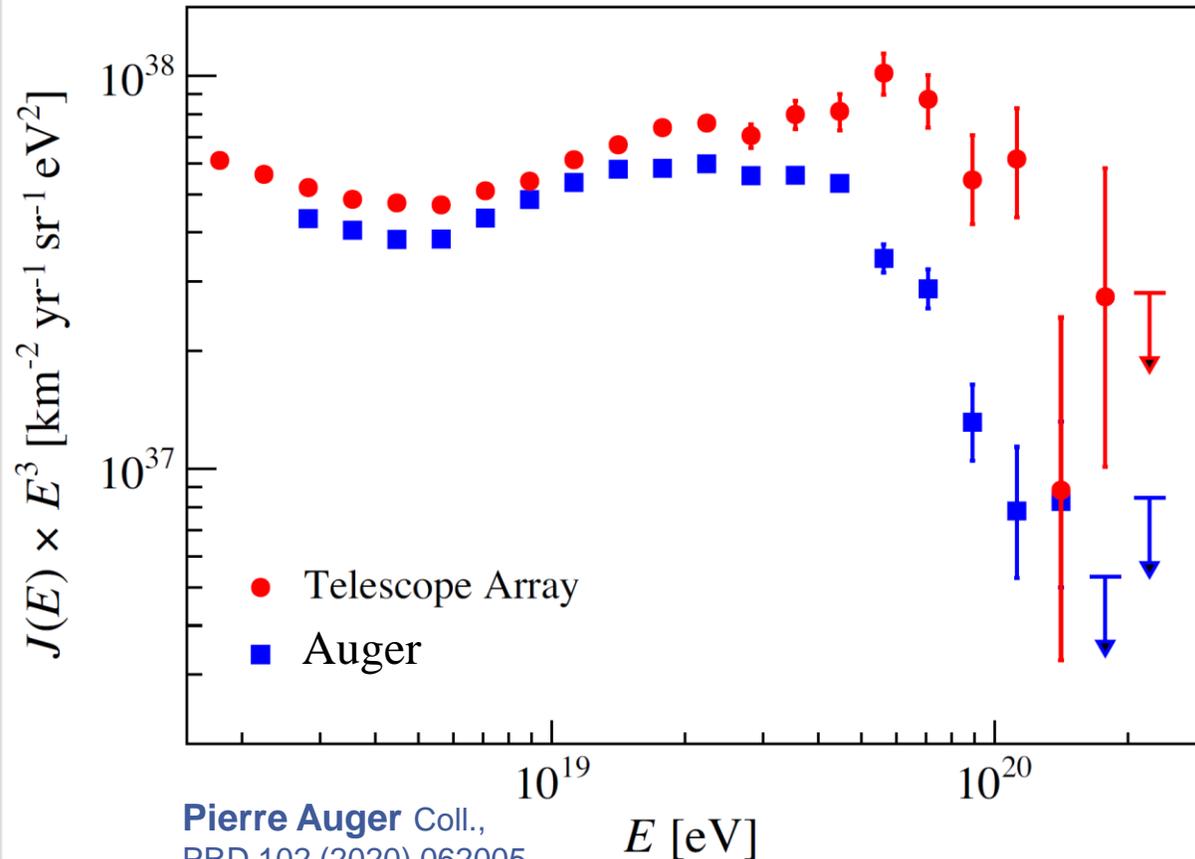
# Additional Slides

# Comparison of TA and Auger Energy Spectra



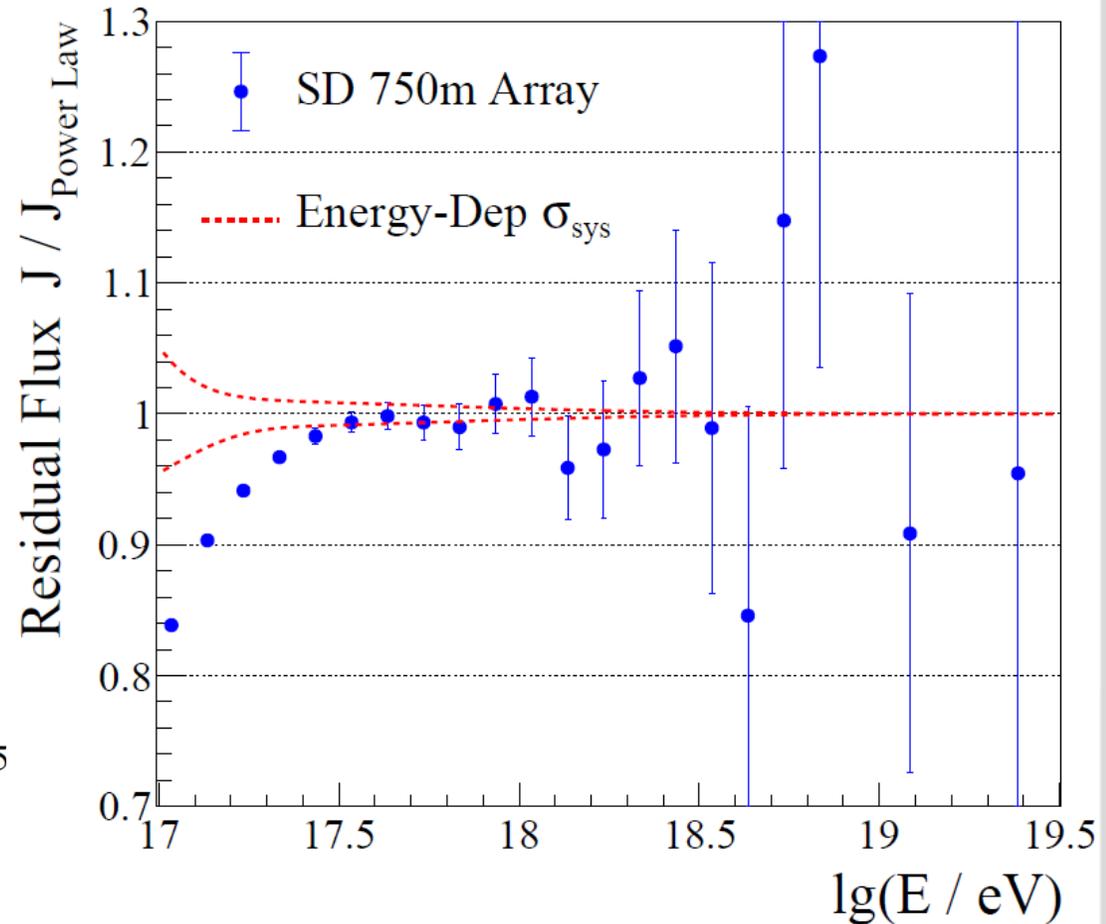
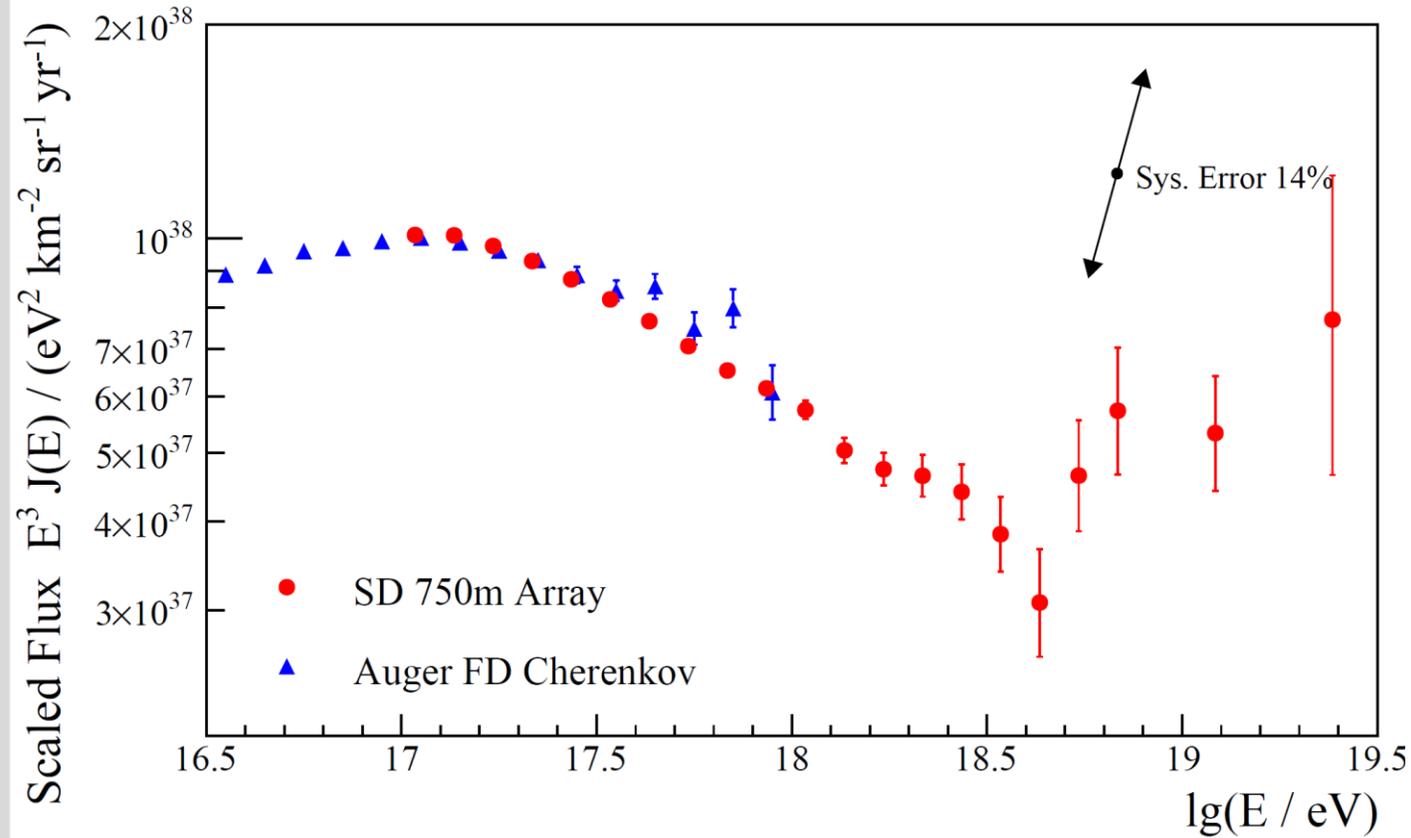
# Interpretations of UHECR flux

- Only significant difference between Auger and TA is flux at highest energies
- Auger measurements more precise (also more accurate?) and often used for interpretations



# Low-energy spectrum by Auger: Second Knee is a smooth feature

- Gradual change of spectral slope may explain apparently inconsistent measurements of second knee positions reported in the past.

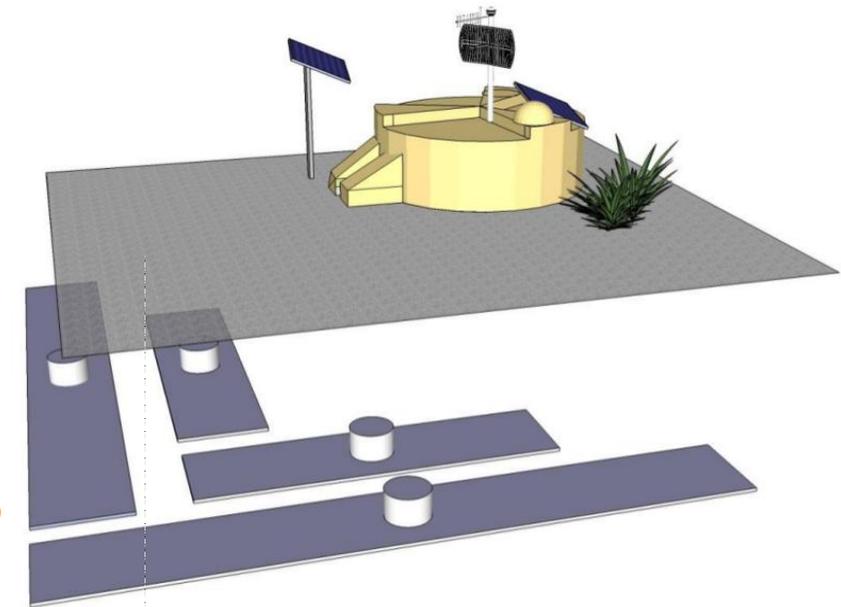
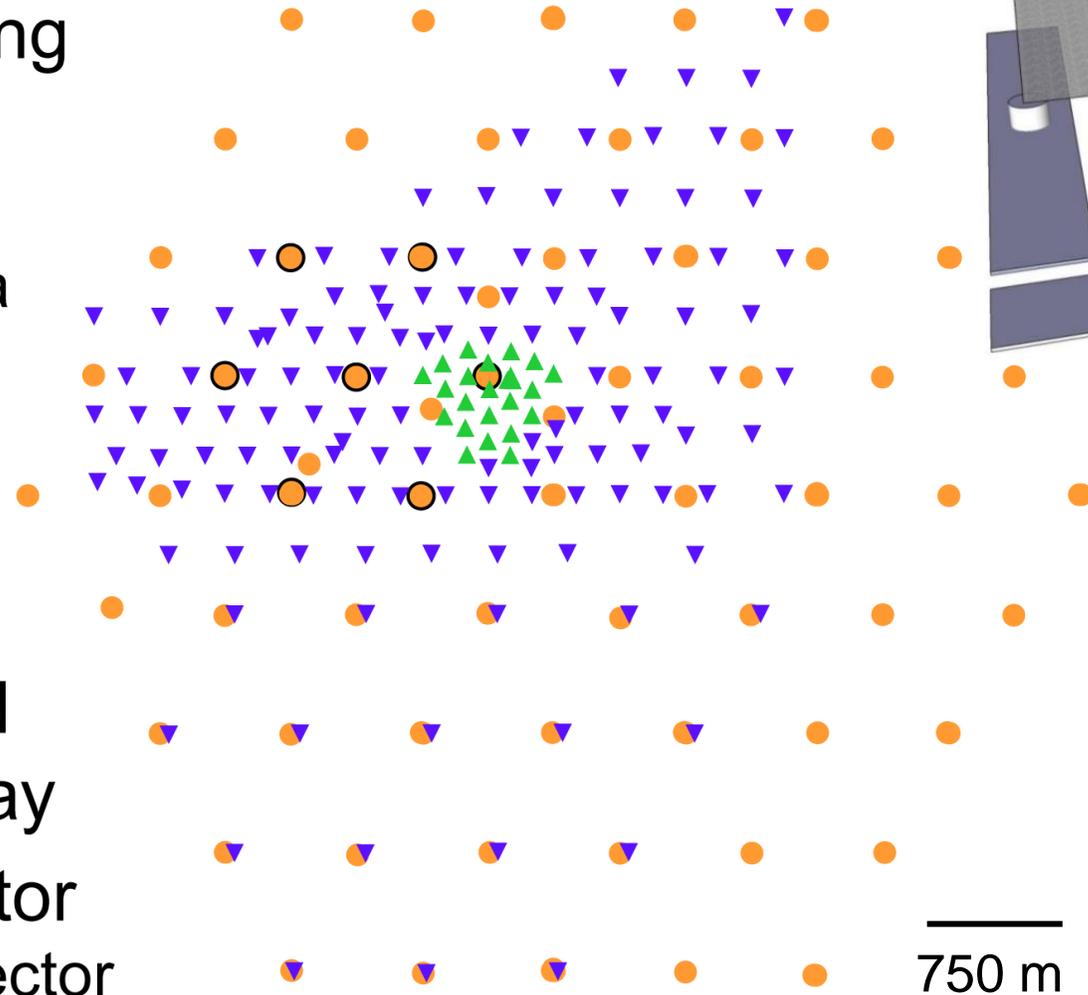


# Large: Auger Engineering Radio Array

- 153 autonomous stations on 17 km<sup>2</sup>

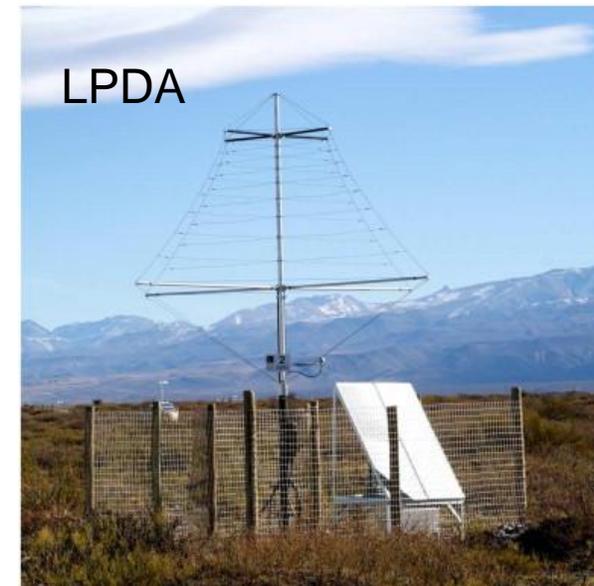
## Auger Engineering Radio Array

- ▲ LPDA antenna
- ▼ Butterfly antenna



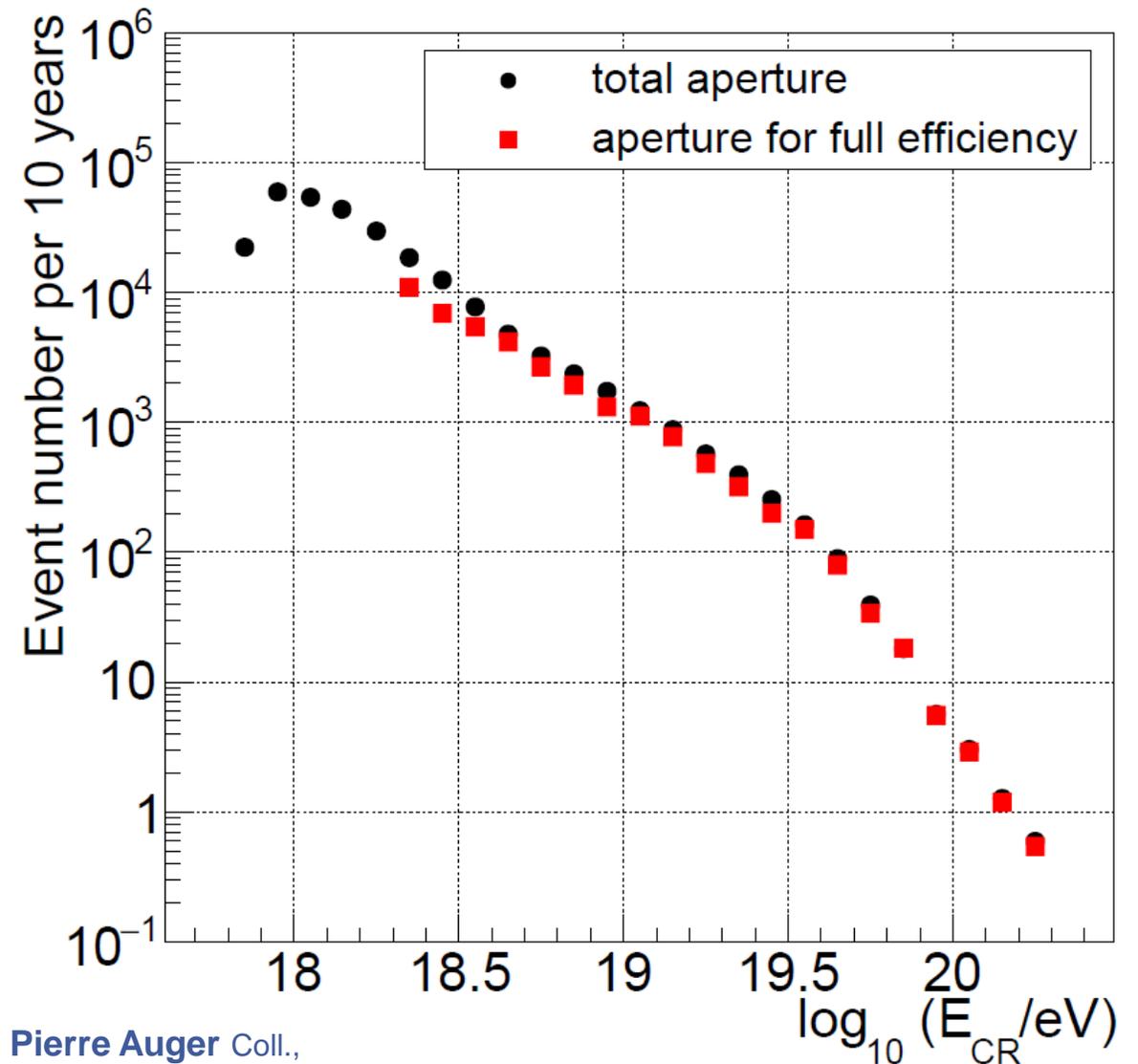
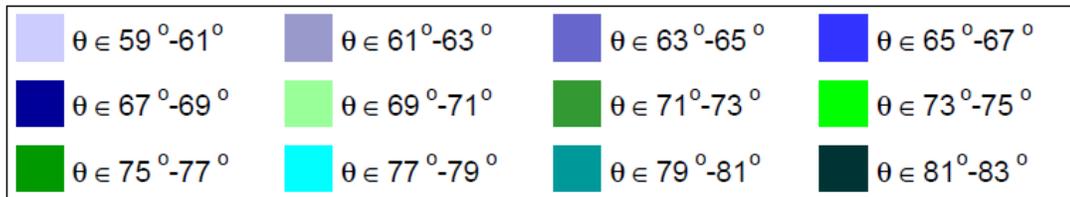
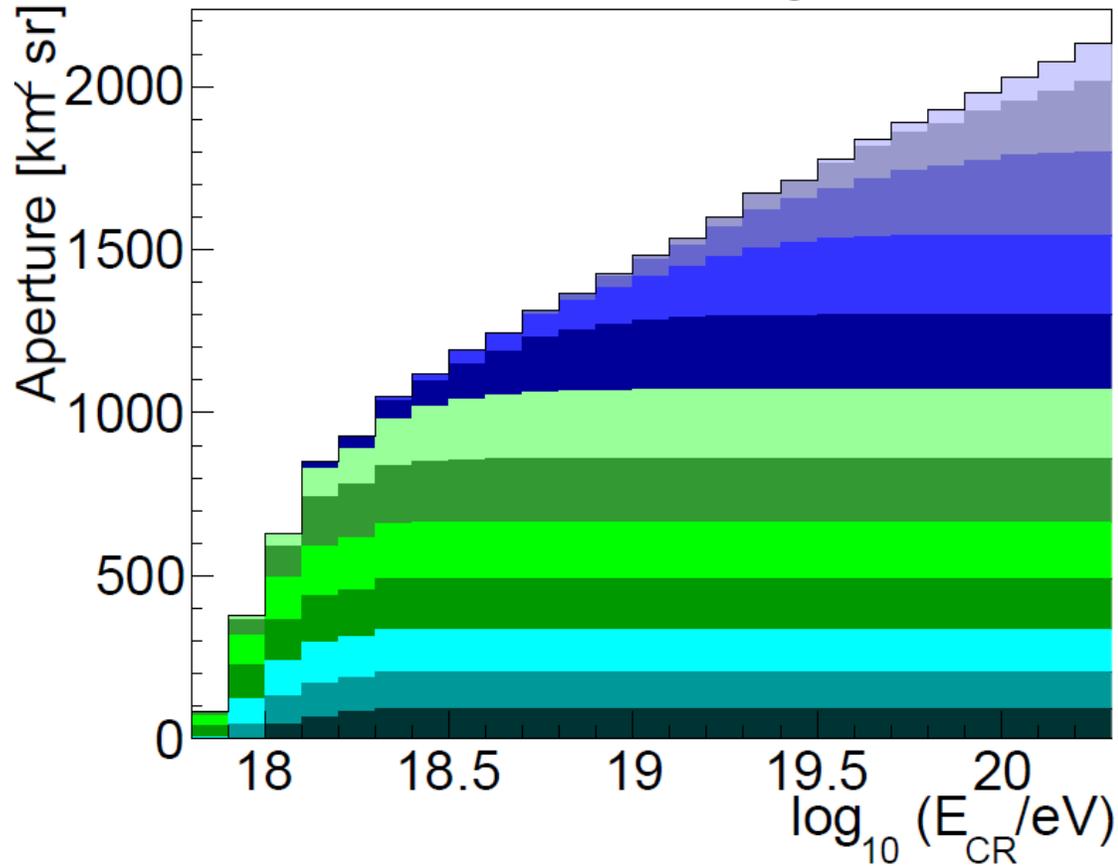
## Auger Muon and Infill Ground Array

- Surface Detector
- with Muon Detector



# Aperture of Auger Radio Upgrade

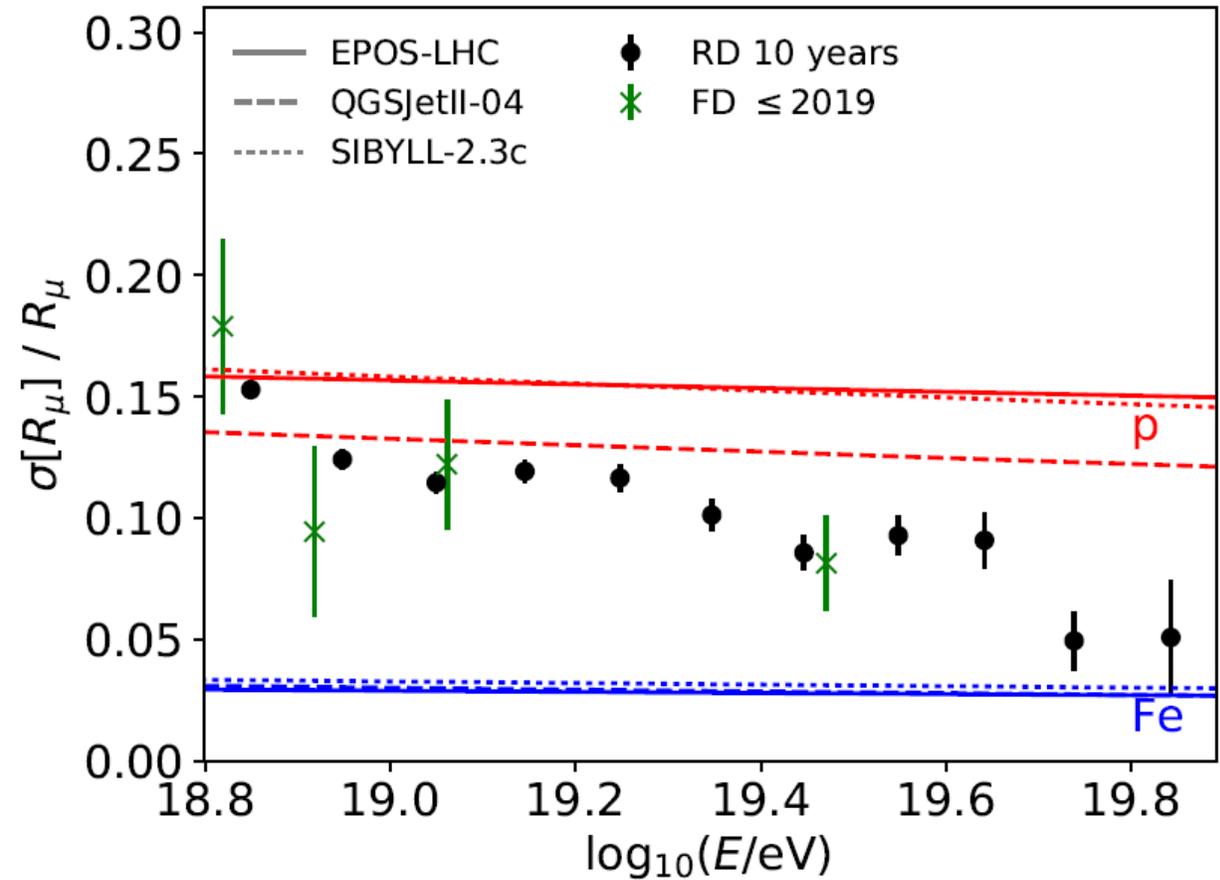
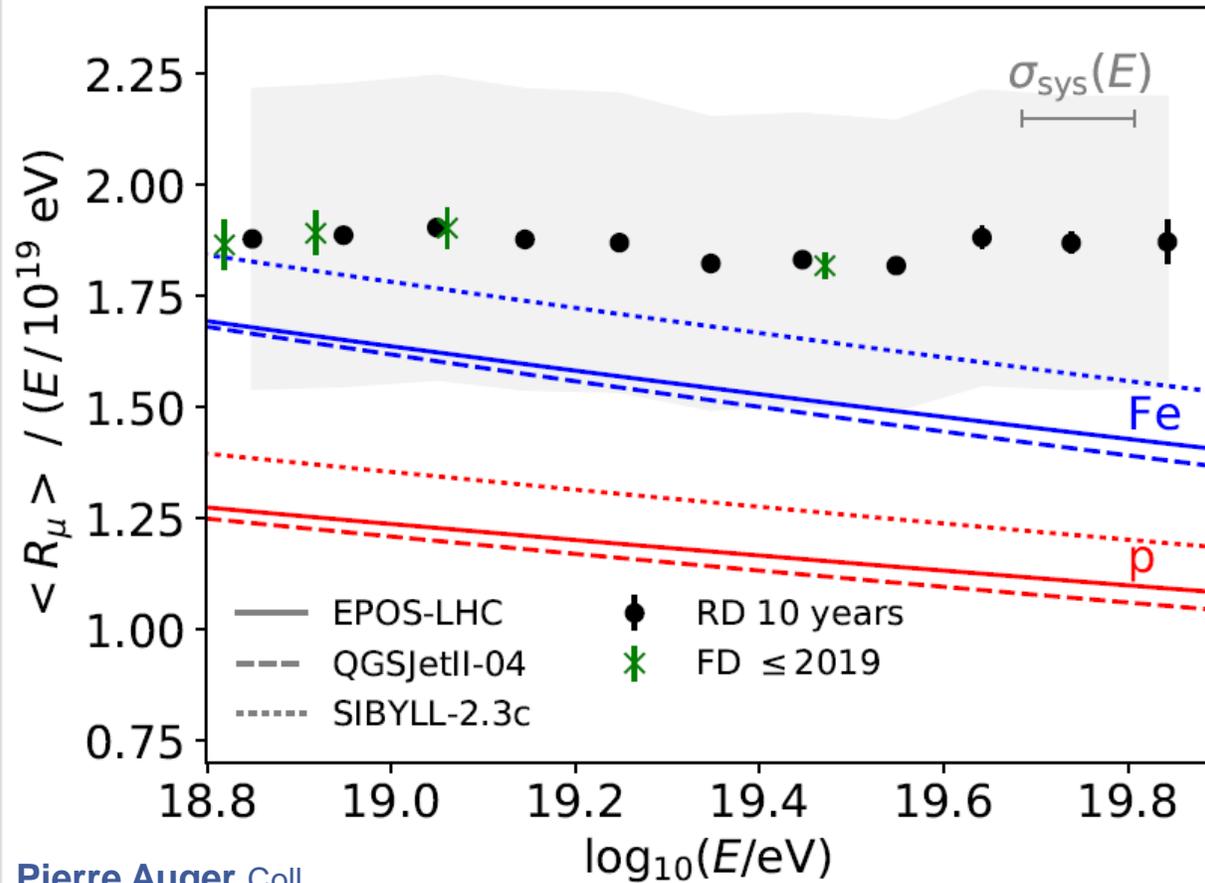
Contribution of zenith angle bins



Pierre Auger Coll.,  
PoS (ICRC2019) 395

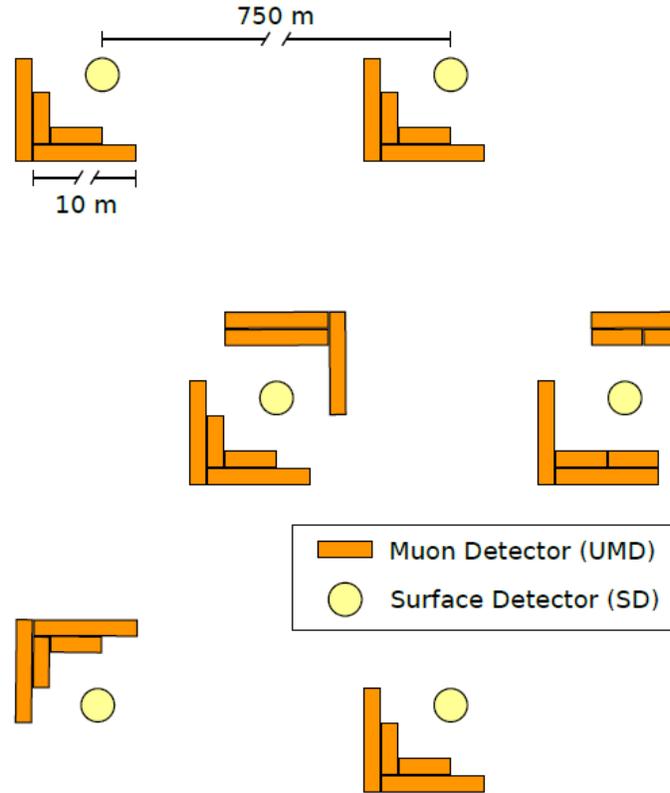
# Predictions for combined muon and radio measurements

- Energy by radio antennas; muons by water-Cherenkov detectors



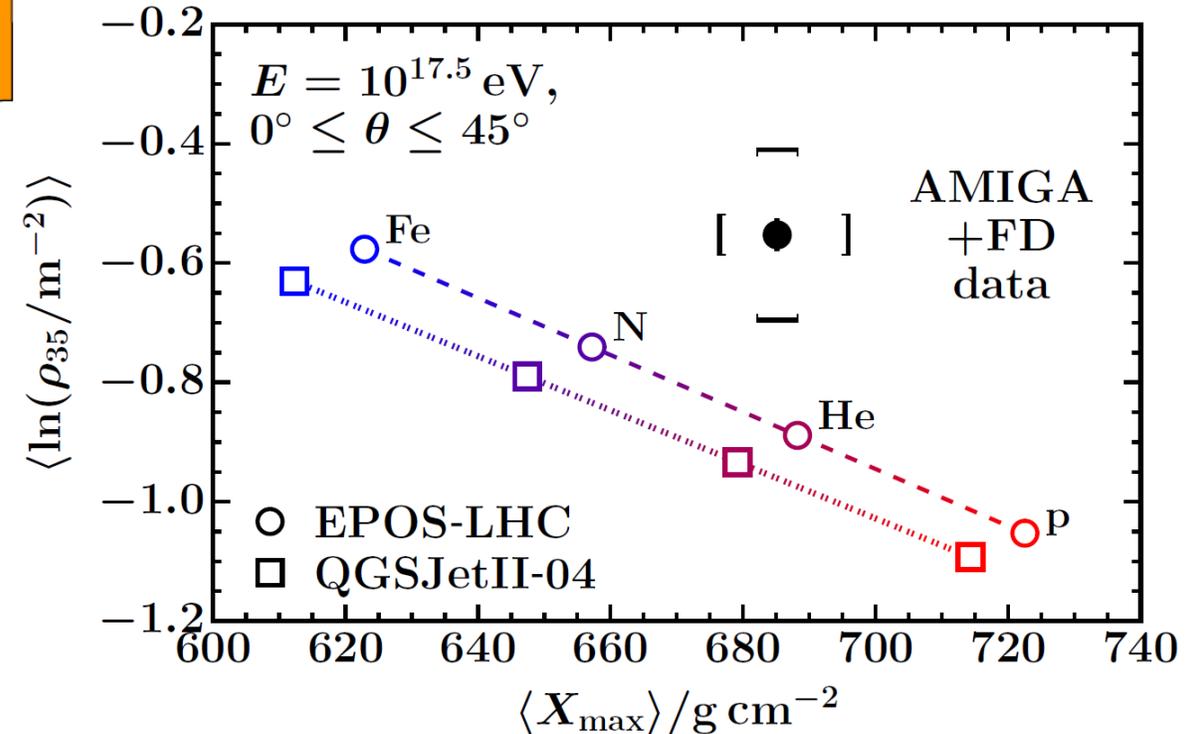
Pierre Auger Coll.,  
PoS (ICRC2019) 395

# Muon Measurements of AMIGA Engineering Array



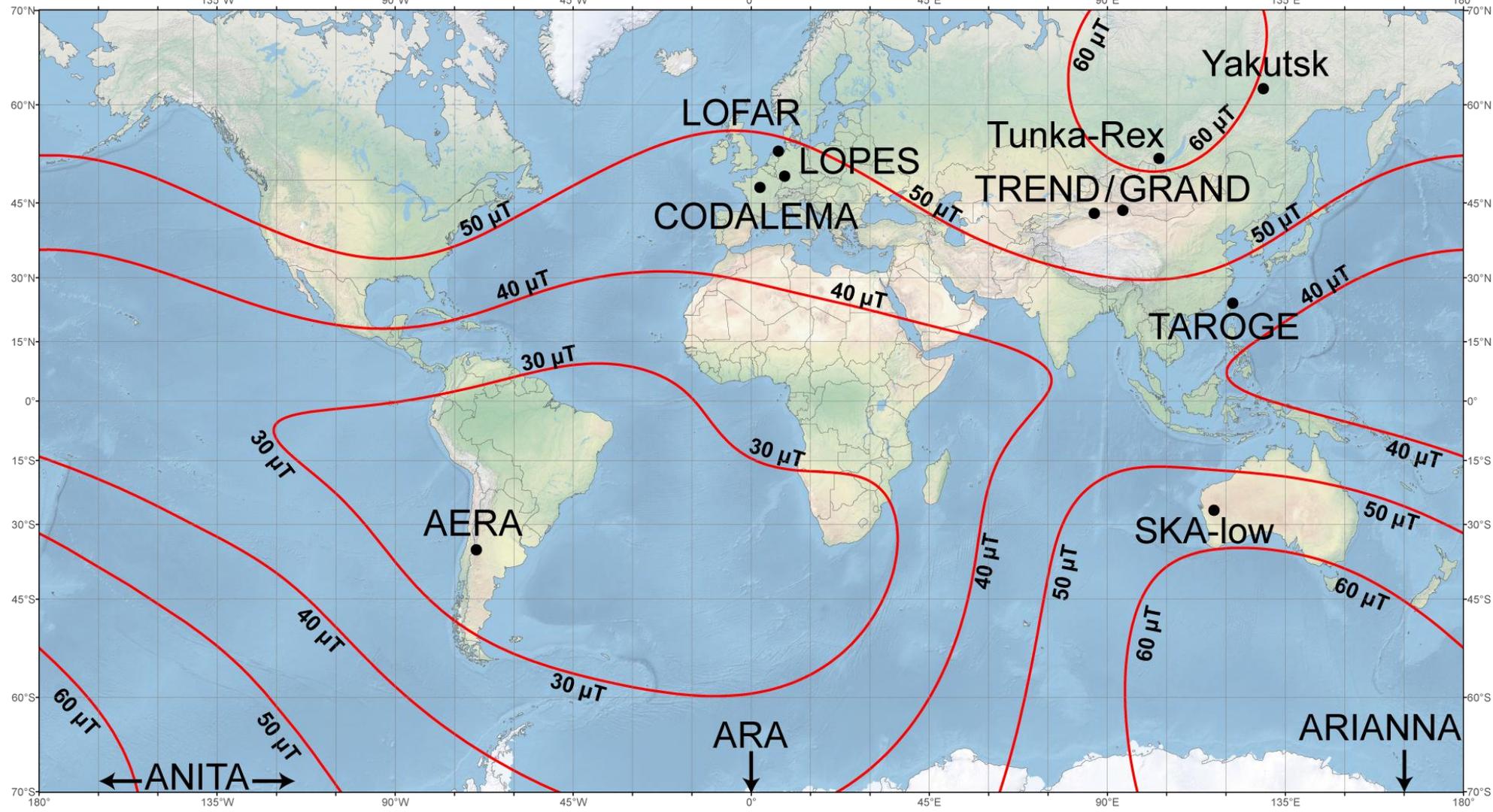
**UMD-750m**  
 23.5 km<sup>2</sup>  
 61x30m<sup>2</sup> Plastic Scintillators  
 buried 2.3m triggering from WCDs

Combination of pure muon and pure electromagnetic measurement (by fluorescence) confirms muon deficit in simulations



Pierre Auger Coll., PoS (ICRC2019) 411

# Location of selected experiments and geomagnetic field



Underlying map (Mercator projection):  
**Main Geomagnetic Field Total Intensity** with contour intervals of 10  $\mu\text{T}$   
 according to US/UK World Magnetic Model - Epoch 2015.0

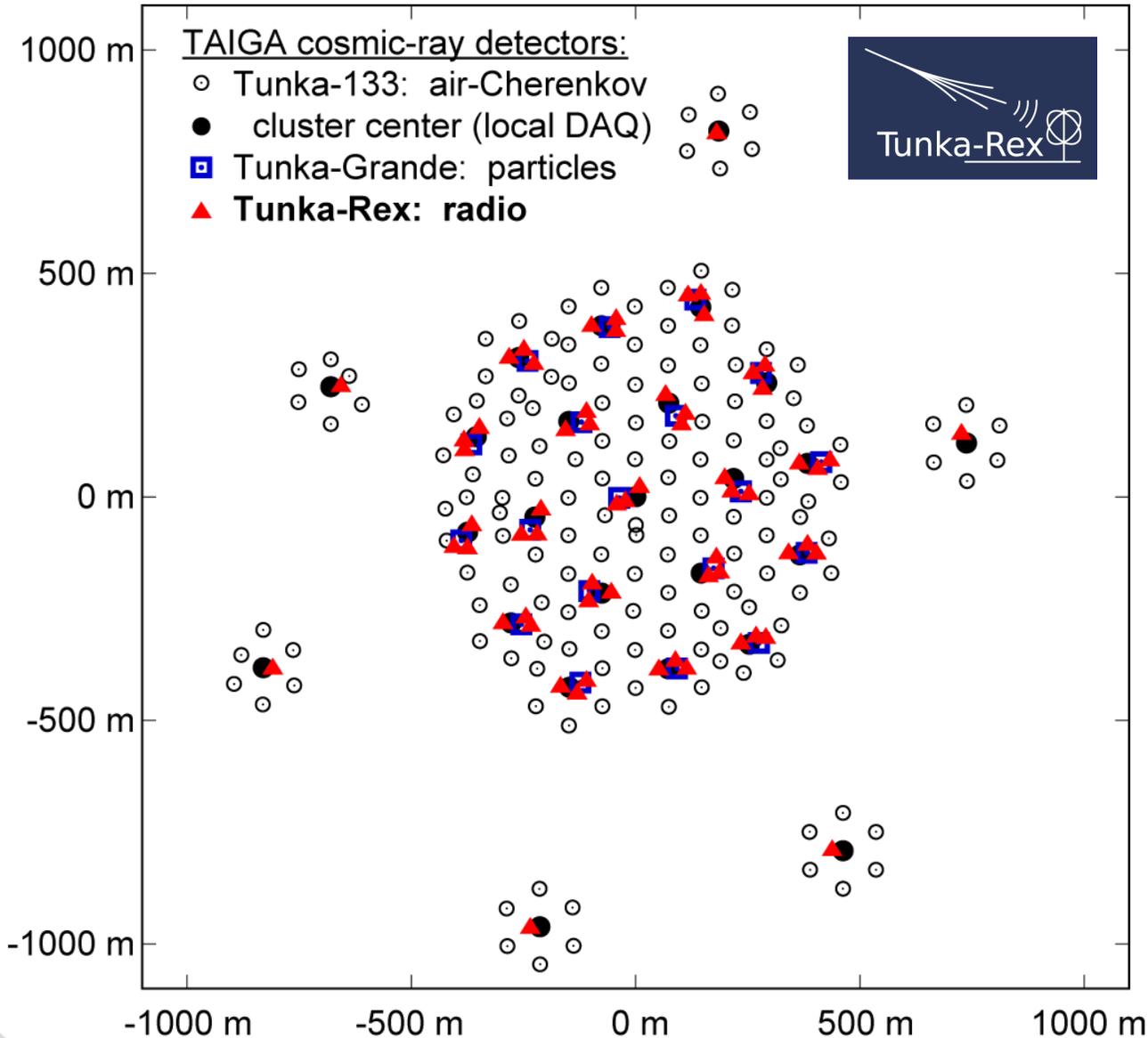
developed by NOAA/NGDC & CIRES  
<http://ngdc.noaa.gov/geomag/WMM>

Map reviewed by NGA and BGS  
 Published December 2014

Overlaid: **Location of radio experiments for cosmic-ray air showers**  
 added on underlying map by Frank G. Schröder  
 Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany

Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys.  
 93 (2017) 1-68  
[arXiv: 1607.08781](https://arxiv.org/abs/1607.08781)

# Tunka Radio Extension (Tunka-Rex) in Siberia, since 2012

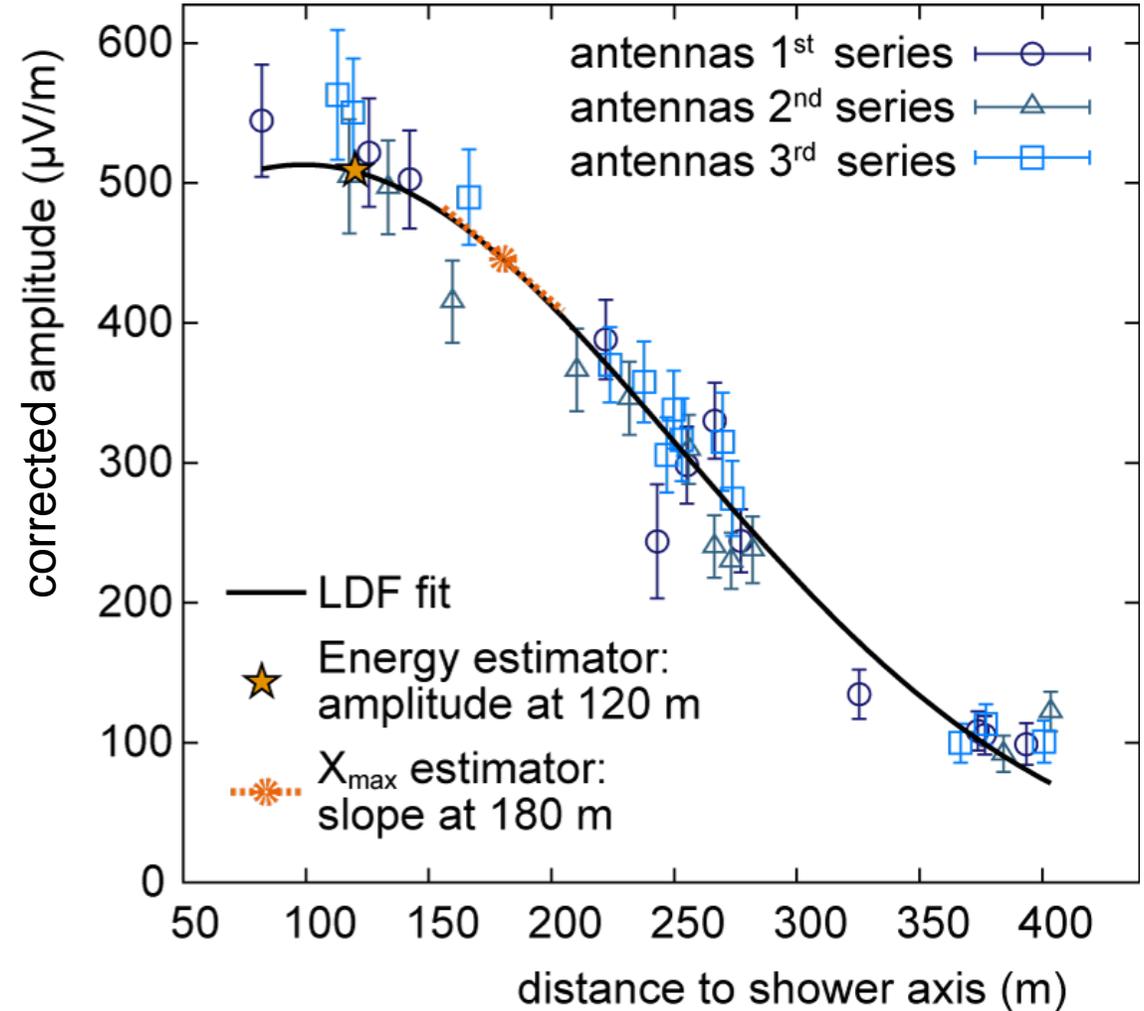
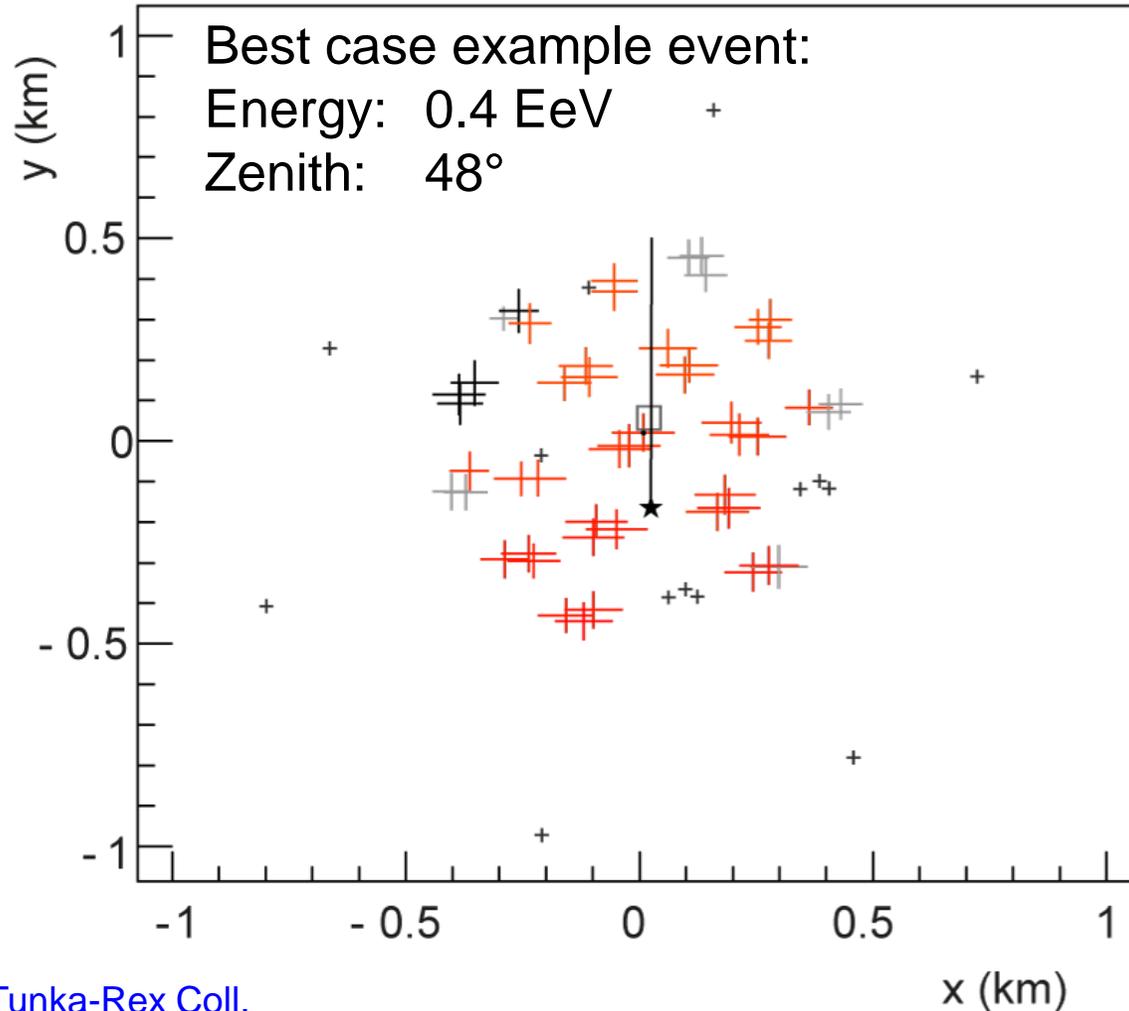


- at TAIGA facility in Siberia for Gamma Astronomy and Cosmic Rays
- 63 antennas on 3 km<sup>2</sup>
  - 3 antenna stations per cluster
  - cluster spacing of 200 m
- Frequency range: 30 – 80 MHz
- Trigger by
  - air-Cherenkov detectors (Tunka-133)
  - particle detectors (Tunka-Grande)

Tunka-Rex Coll.

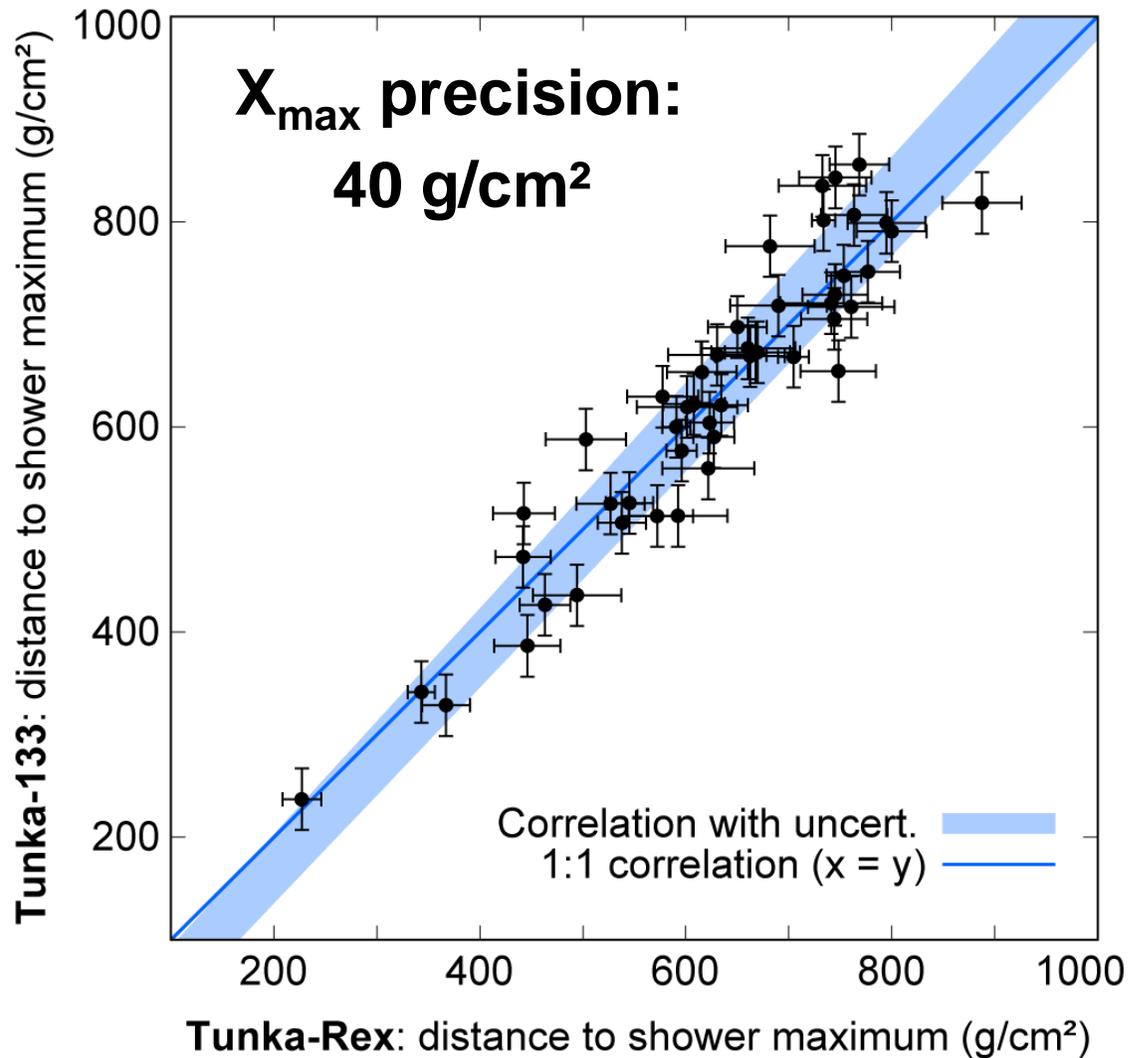
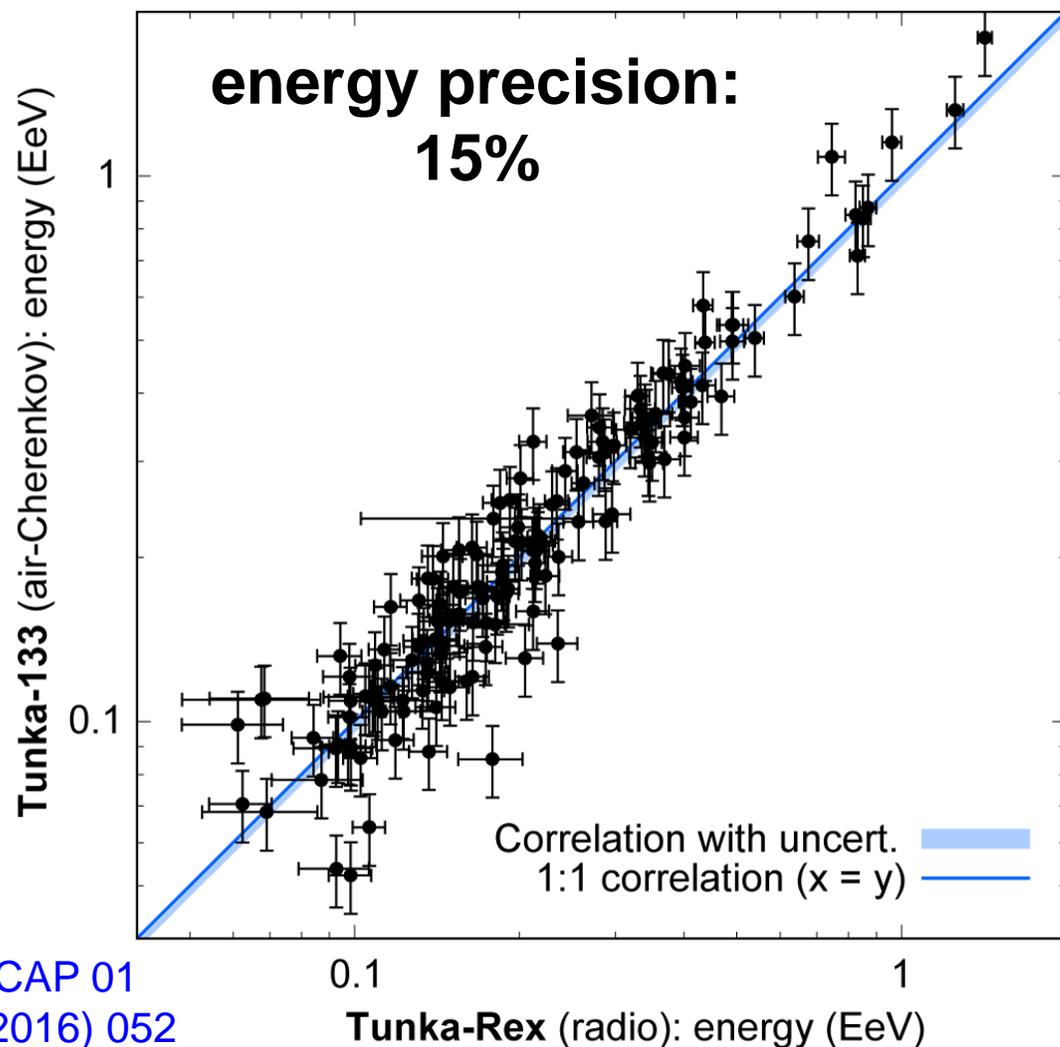
# Simple standard method for reconstruction

- energy by amplitude (after asymmetry correction); distance to  $X_{\max}$  by slope of LDF



# Correlation of Radio and Cherenkov-light measurements

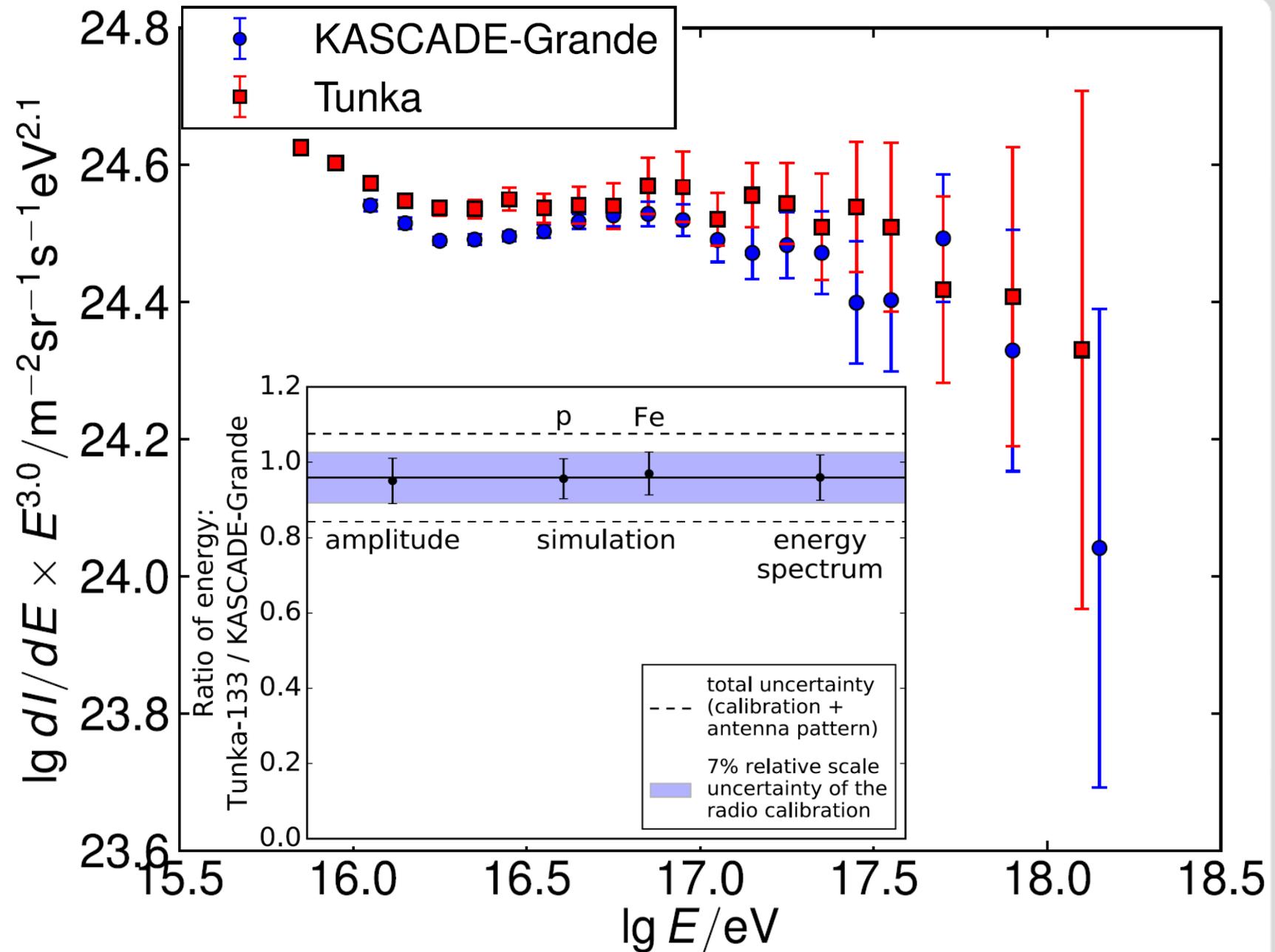
- Experimental proof that radio is sensitive to distance to shower maximum



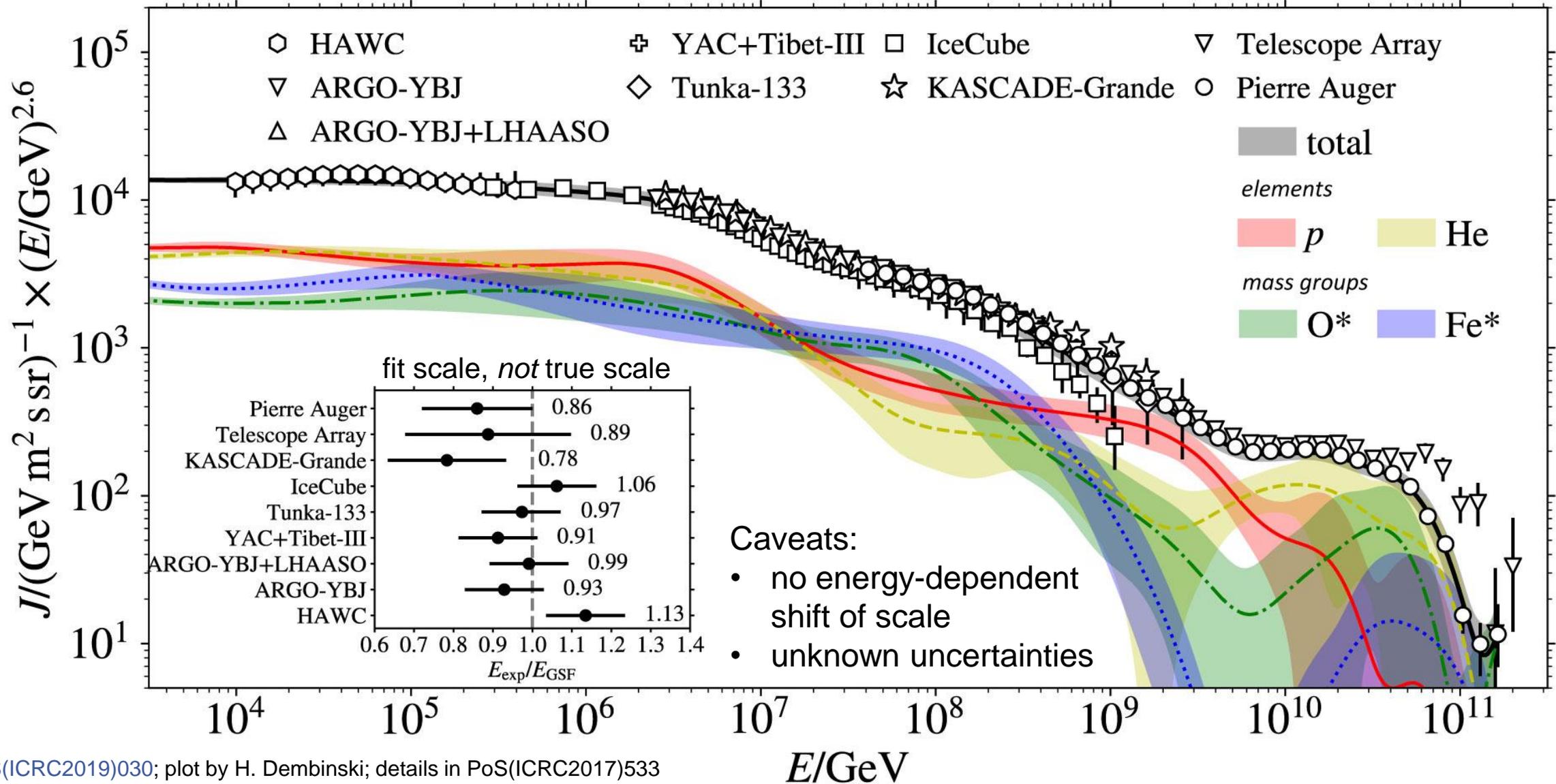
# Comparing energy scales of KASCADE and Tunka-133 via their radio arrays

- Relative comparison, absolute accuracy of both arrays is 20 %
- The energy scales of both experiments agree within 10%

Tunka-Rex + LOPES Colls.,  
PLB 763 (2016) 179



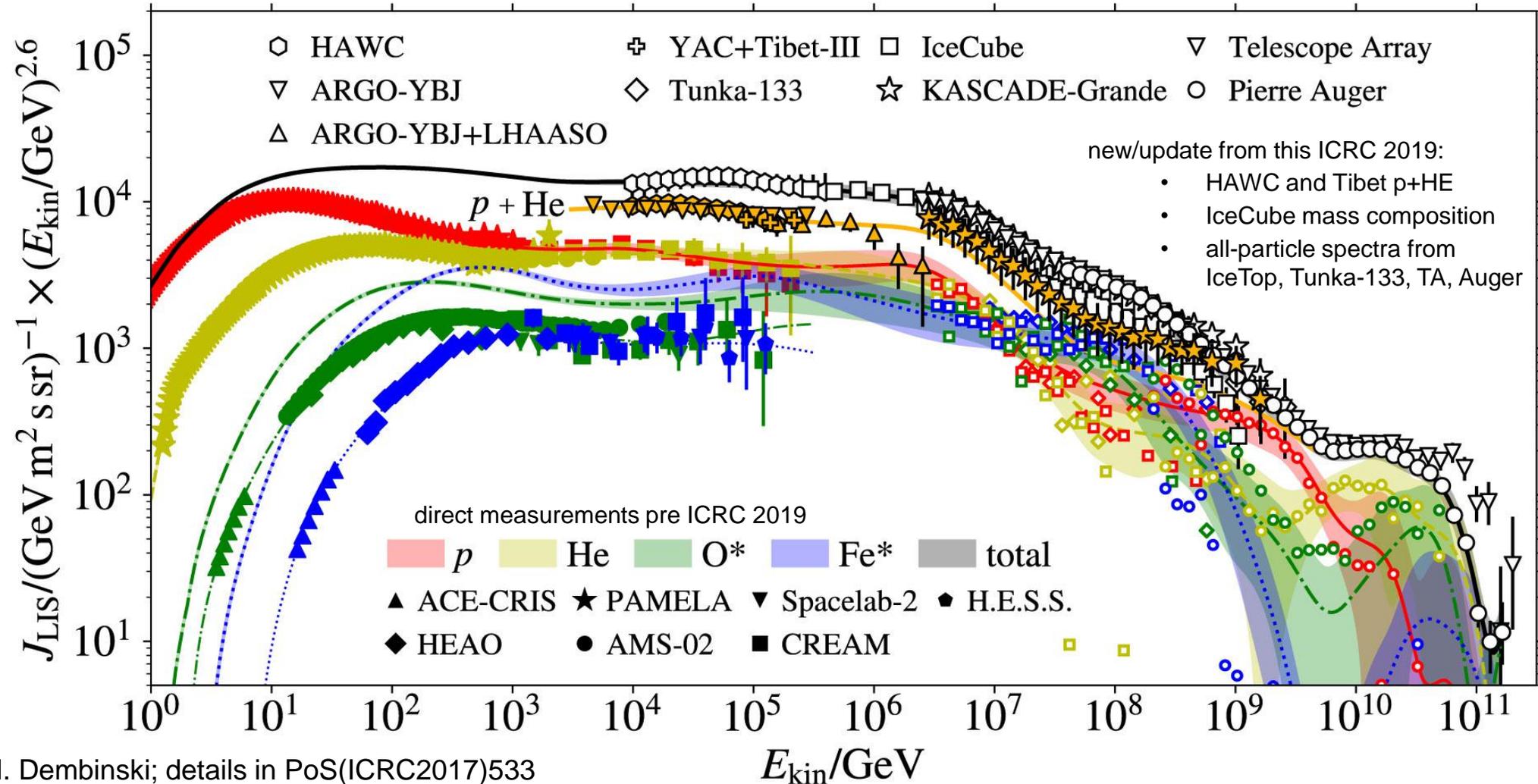
# Cosmic-Ray Energy Spectrum and Mass Composition



PoS(ICRC2019)030; plot by H. Dembinski; details in PoS(ICRC2017)533

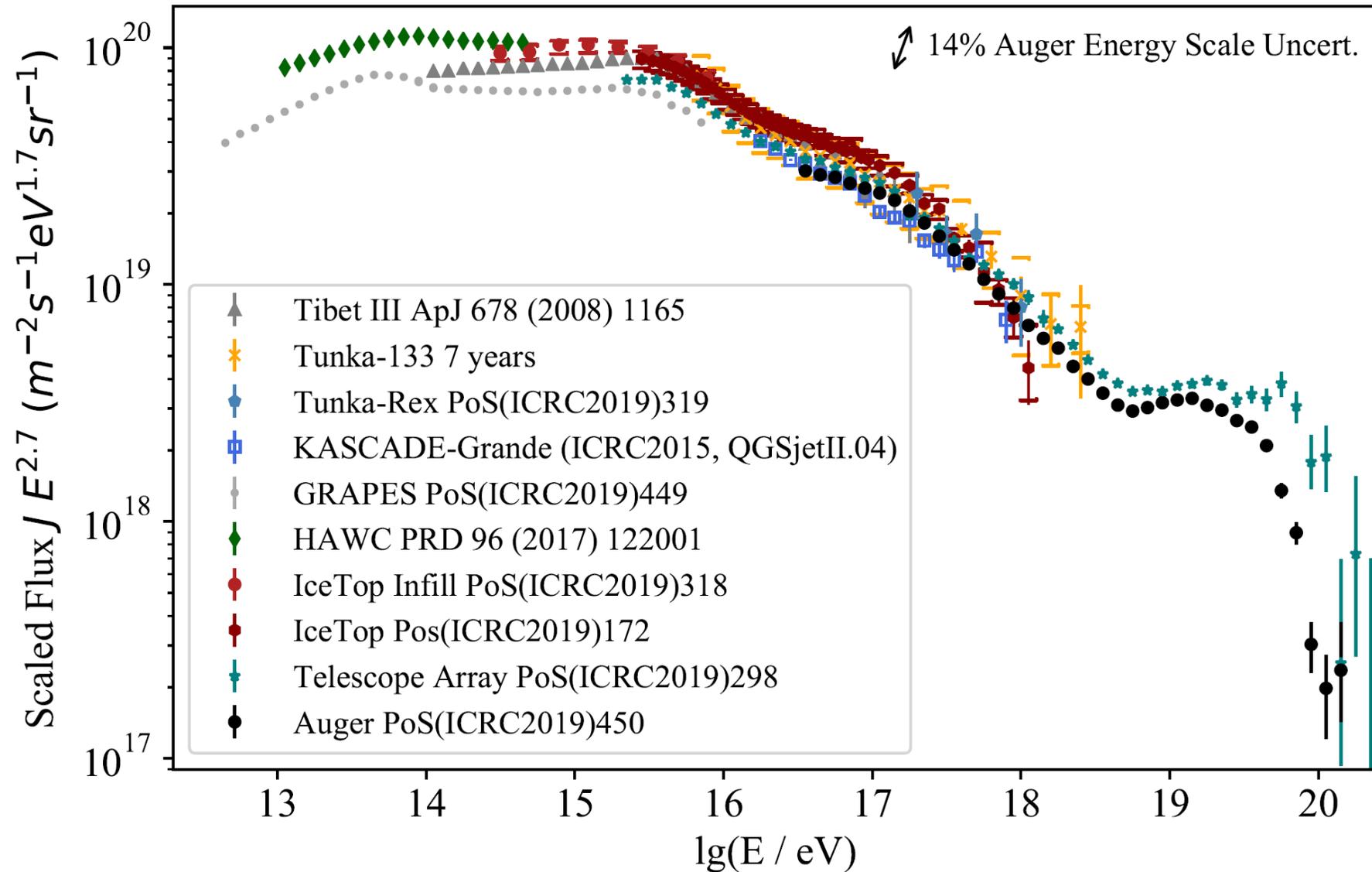
# Global Spline Fit (Composition and Energy Spectrum)

Fit of spectra *within experimental uncertainties*, allowing for constant shift in energy scales



plot by H. Dembinski; details in PoS(ICRC2017)533

# All-particle Energy Spectrum by Air-Shower Arrays



Caveat:  
different quality of  
measurements